

Plant-mimetic heat pipes for operation with large inertial and gravitational stresses

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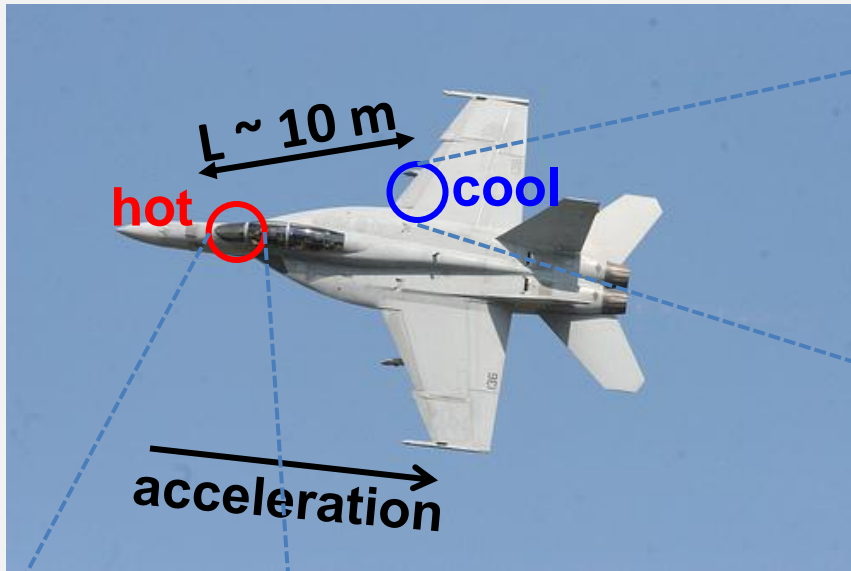
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Harvard University

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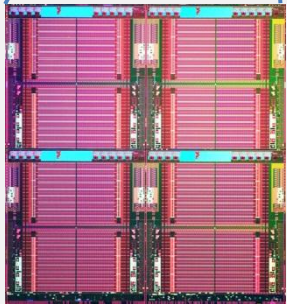
(B.L. Lee, PM)

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Problem – efficient heat transfer



temperature:
 $T_{\text{sink}} \leq 40\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$



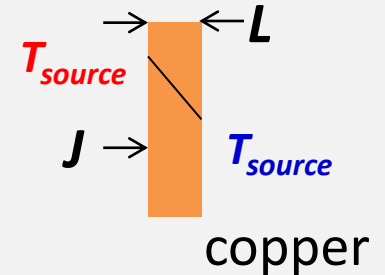
heat flux:
 $J \rightarrow 100\text{ W/cm}^2$

temperature:
 $T_{\text{source}} \leq 100\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$

$$\Delta T_{\text{min}} = 60\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$$

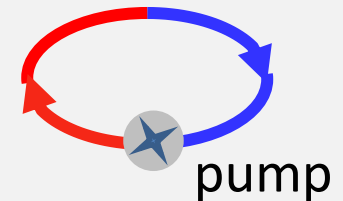
Conduction:

$$L = \frac{k\Delta T}{J} = 2.4\text{ cm}$$



Convection:

$$Q = \frac{J}{\rho C_p \Delta T} = 0.4 \frac{\text{mL/s}}{\text{cm}^2}$$



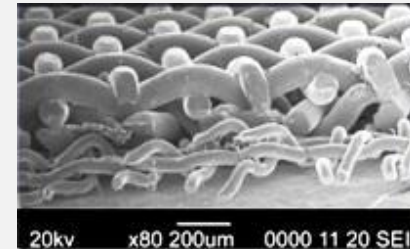
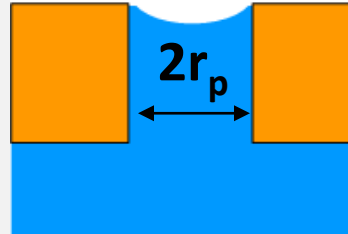
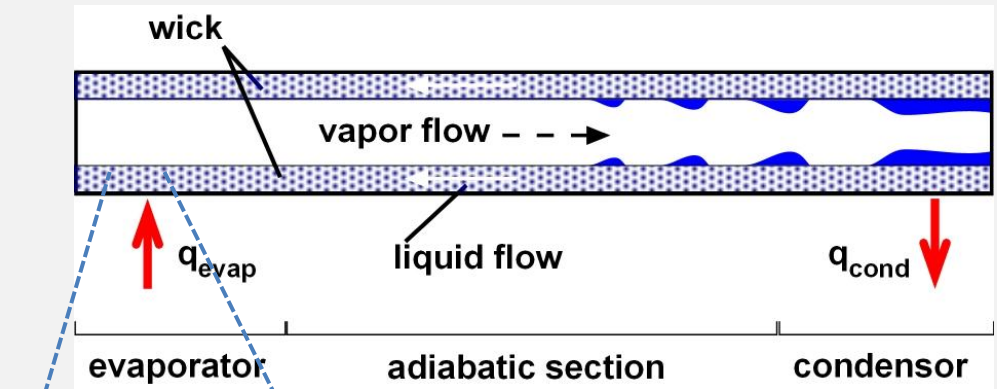
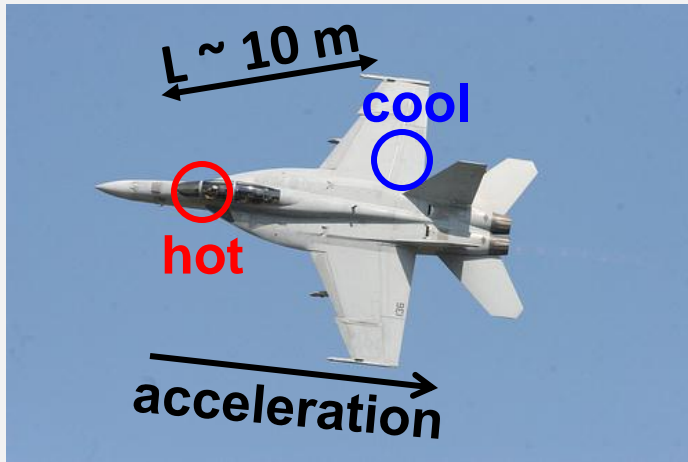
Phase change:

$$Q = \frac{J}{\rho \lambda} = 0.04 \frac{\text{mL/s}}{\text{cm}^2}$$



boiling

Heat pipes – closed loop phase change



www.microloops.com

Advantages

- autonomous (no pump)
- self-contained
- near-isothermal operation

Limitations

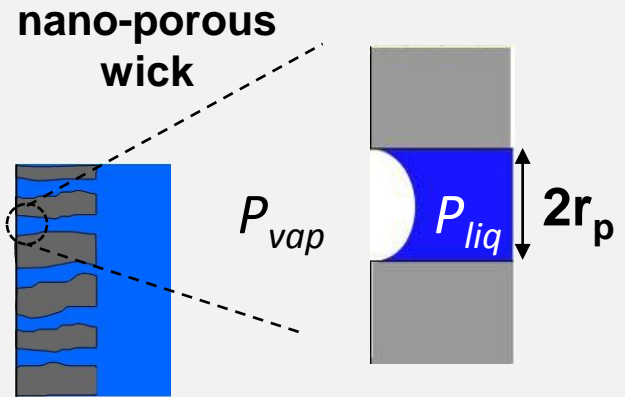
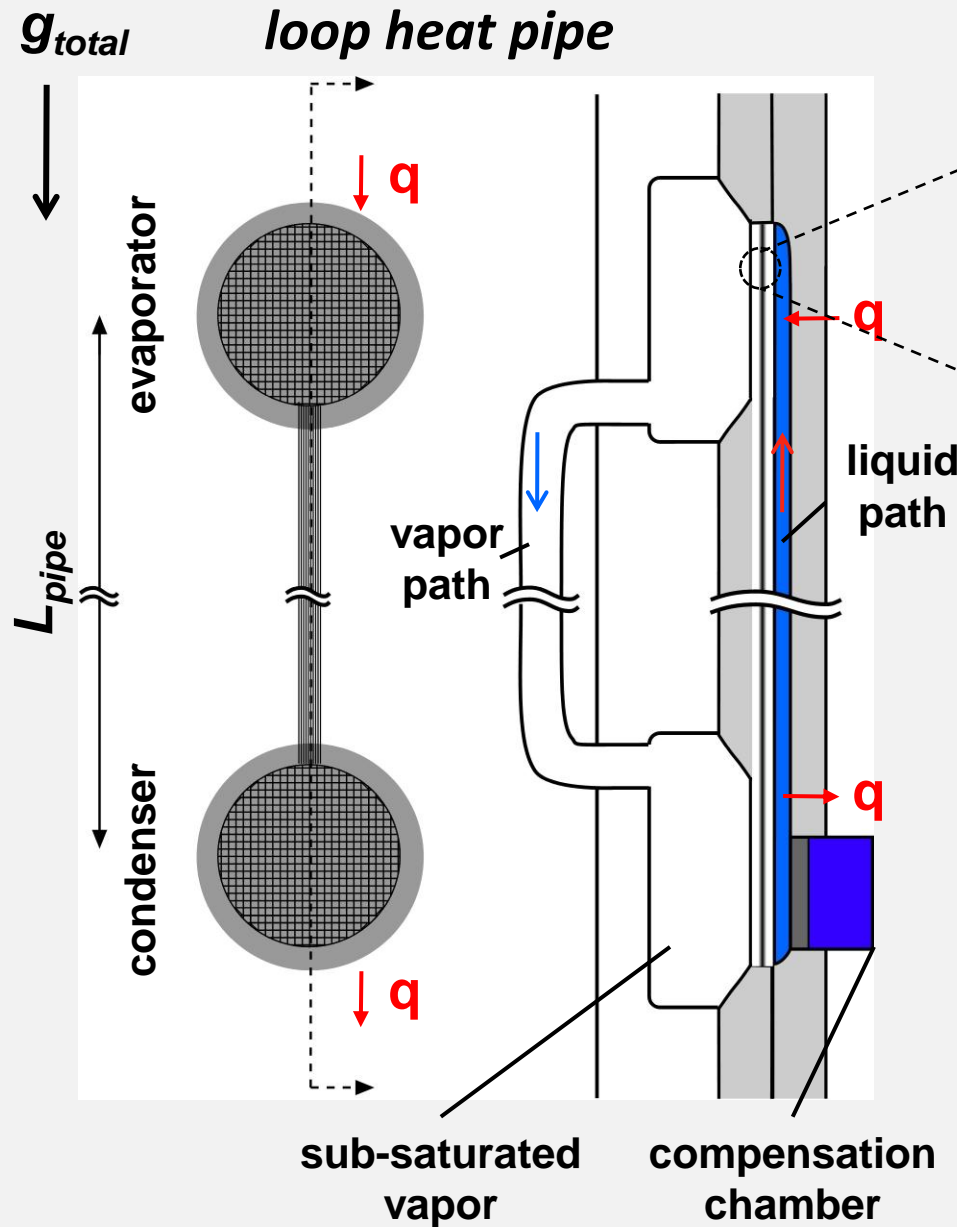
- capillary limit
⇒ short (~1 m), low load (≤ 1 g)
- entrainment limit
⇒ limited heat flow

$$r_p \geq 1 \mu\text{m} \quad \Delta P \leq \frac{2\gamma}{r_p} \leq 1 \text{ bar}$$

Goal: Efficient heat transfer

- over long distances (10 m)
- with adverse gravitational and inertial loads (up to 10 g)

Opportunity – large stresses from small pores



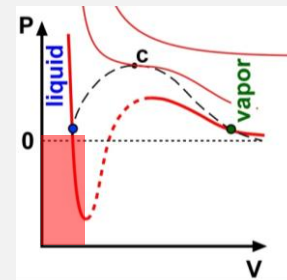
$$r_p < 10 \text{ nm}$$

$$P_{vap} - P_{liq} = \frac{2\gamma}{r_p} \gg 1 \text{ bar}$$

$$\Rightarrow P_{liq} = P_{vap} - \frac{2\gamma}{r_p} \ll 0$$

\Rightarrow **Negative pressure**

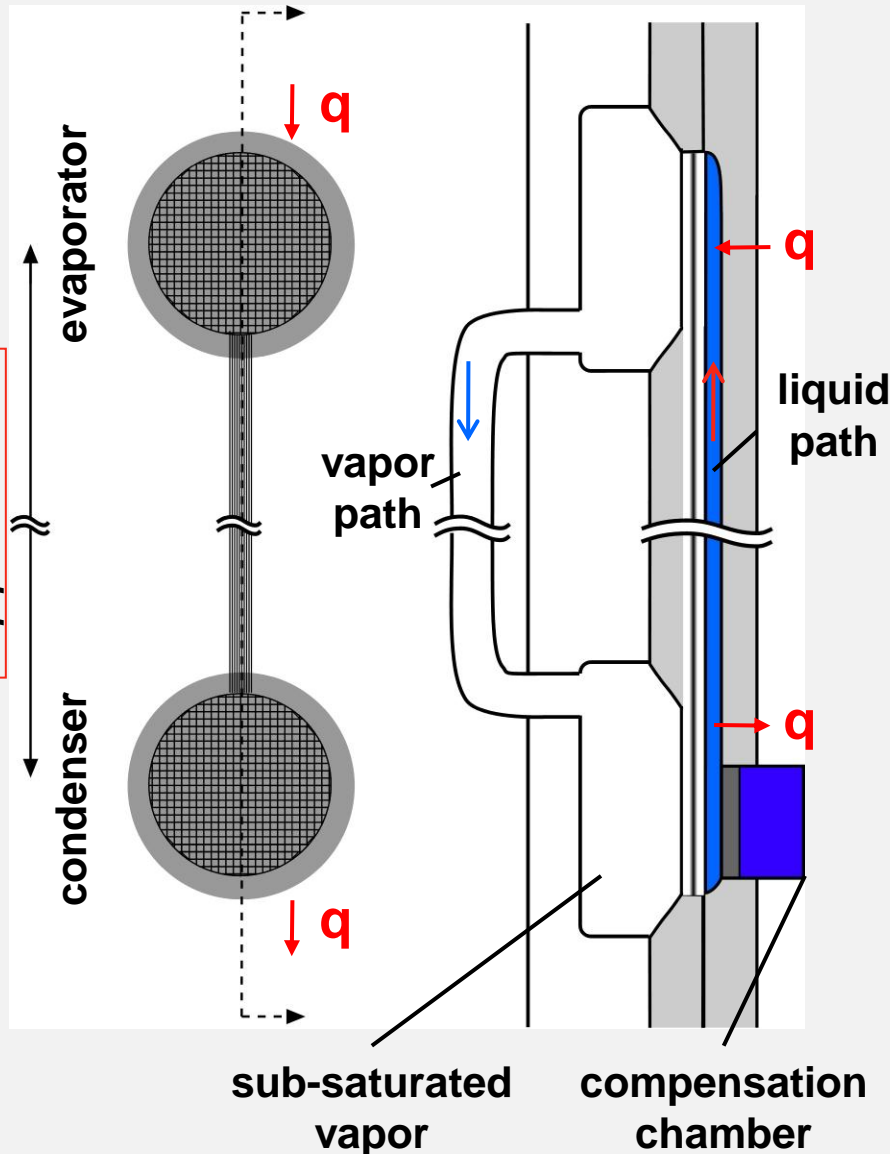
\Rightarrow **Metastable (superheated)**



Opportunity – large stresses from small pores

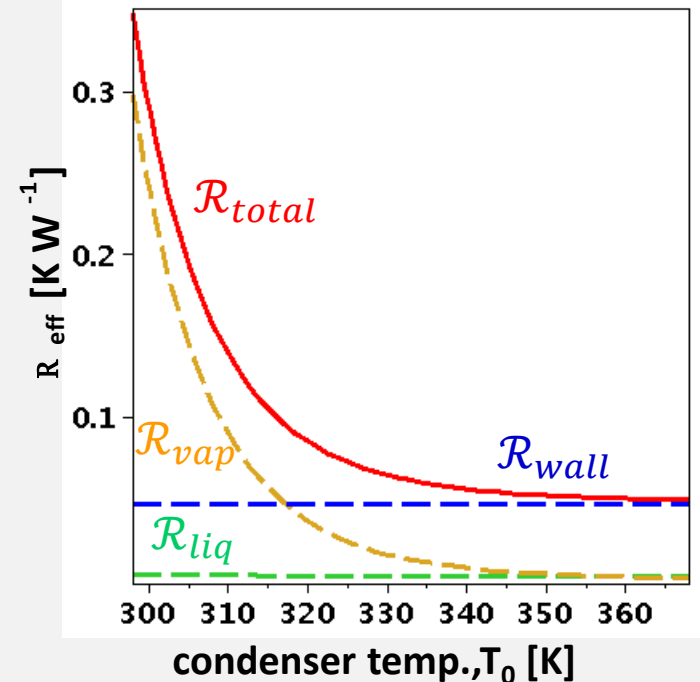
$$g_{total} = 10 \text{ g}$$

$$L_{pipe} = 10 \text{ m}$$



Effective Thermal Resistance:

$$\mathcal{R}_{total} = \mathcal{R}_{liq} + \mathcal{R}_{vap} + \mathcal{R}_{wall}$$



- Impact of viscous and inertial stresses negligible.

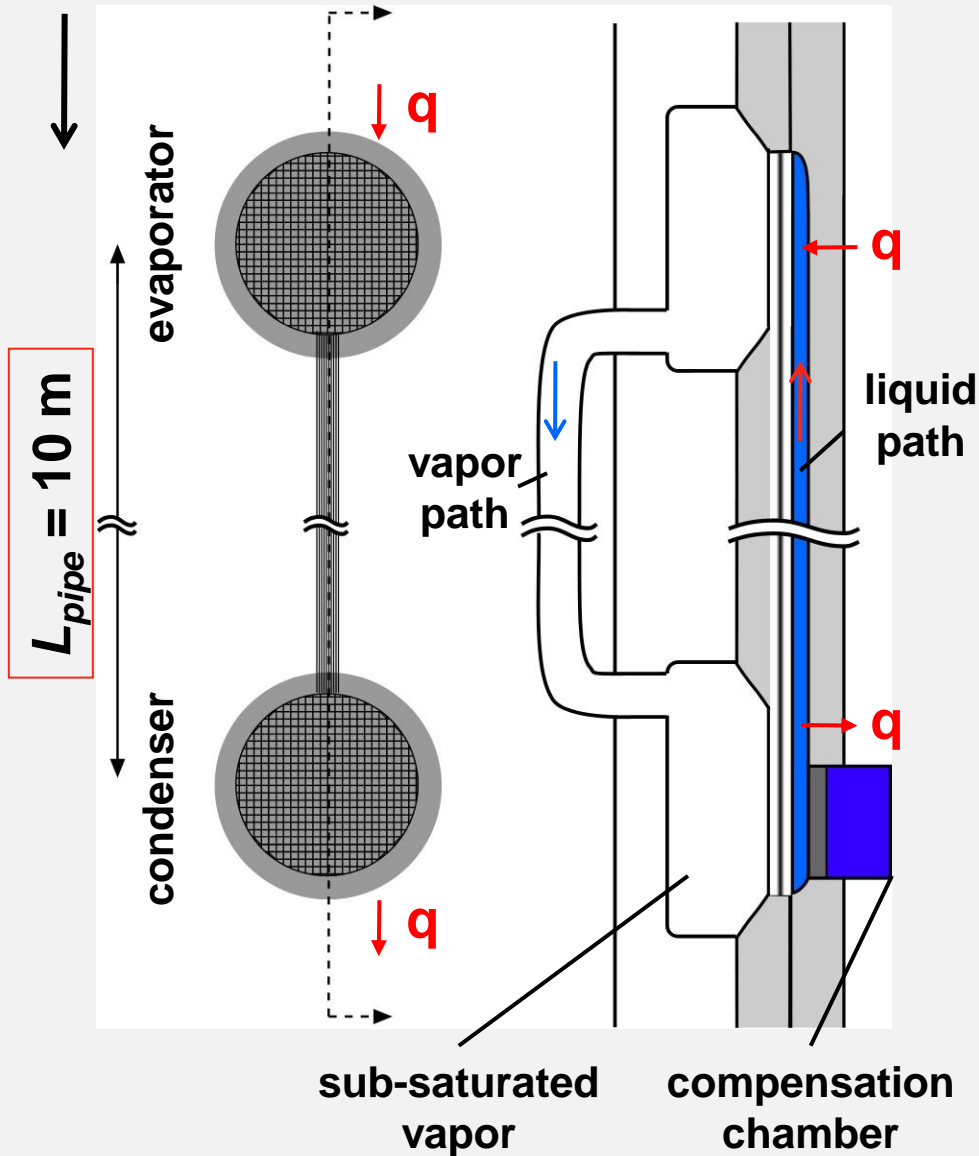
$$\Rightarrow R_{total} \sim R_{wall}$$

\Rightarrow total resistance $\sim 3 \text{ mm}$ of copper

(Chen et al., submitted, 2012)

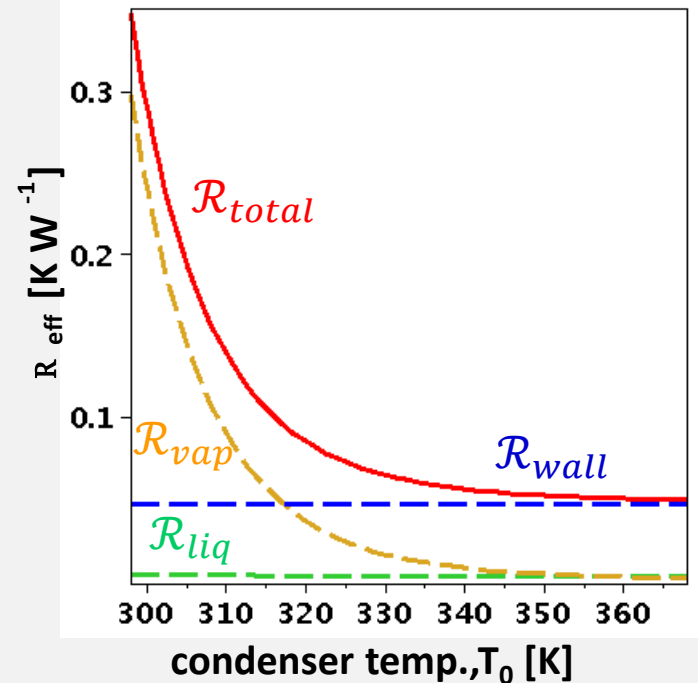
Challenge – large stresses from small pores

$$g_{total} = 10 \text{ g}$$



Effective Thermal Resistance:

$$\mathcal{R}_{total} = \mathcal{R}_{liq} + \mathcal{R}_{vap} + \mathcal{R}_{wall}$$

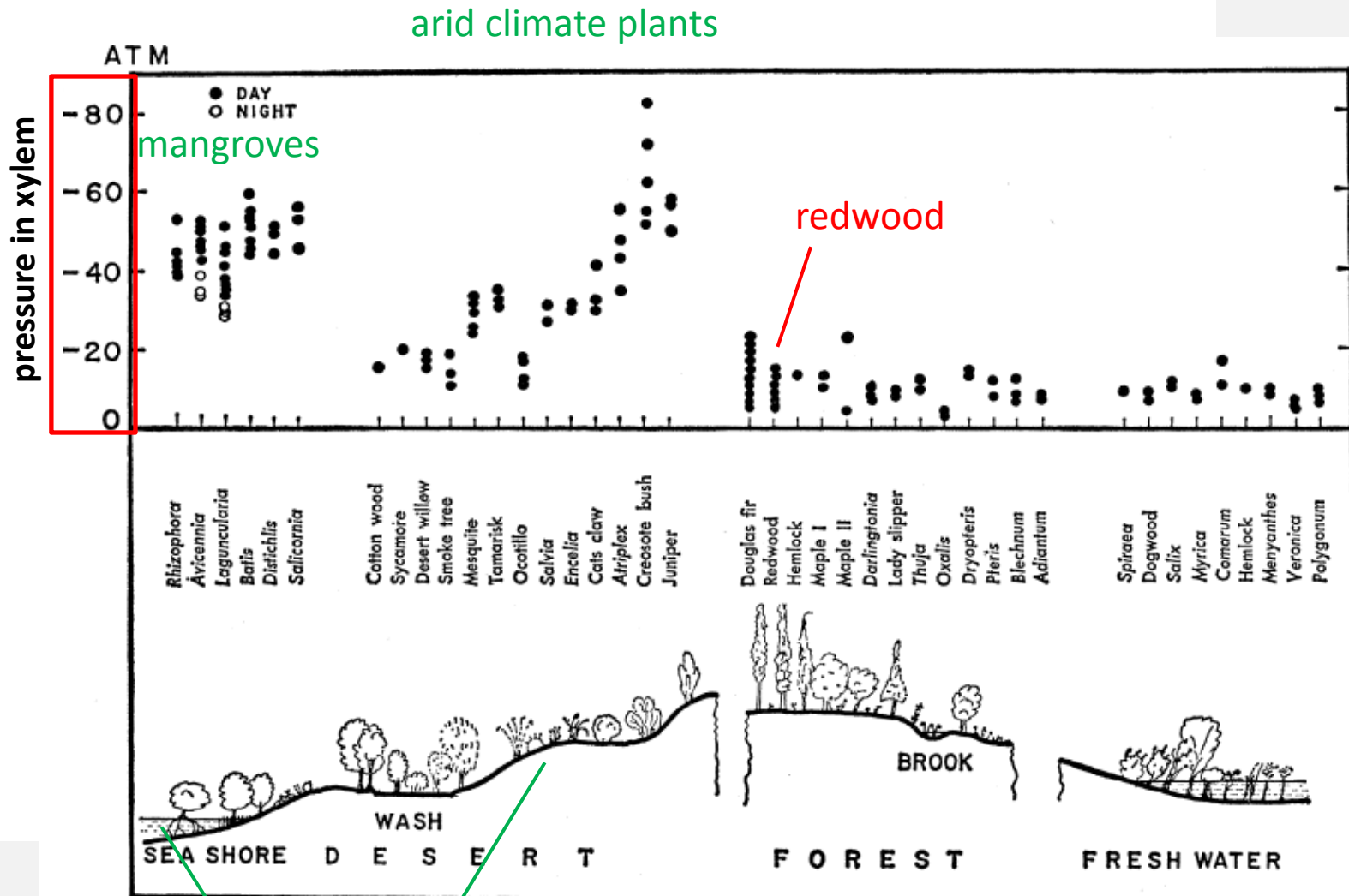


- $P_{liq} \sim -20 \text{ bars}$ for $q = 10 \text{ W/cm}^2$
- additional $-1 \text{ bar per W/cm}^2$

⇒ **must manage metastability**

(Chen et al., submitted, 2012)

Challenge – but plants do it every day...



(Scholander et al., Science (1965))

Synthetic trees - negative pressure wicks

“soil”: (liquid)

$$a_s = 1$$

$$P = P_0$$

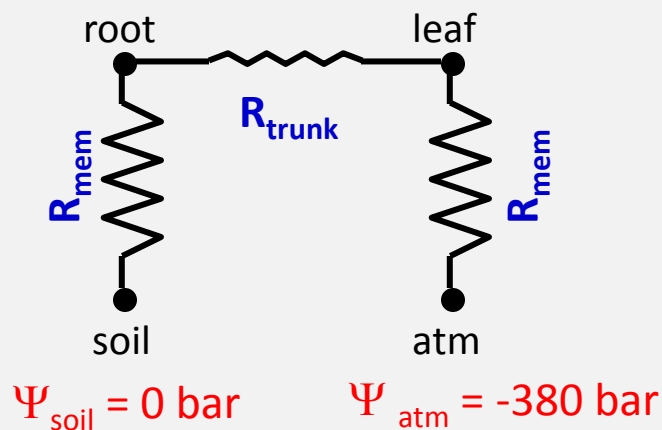
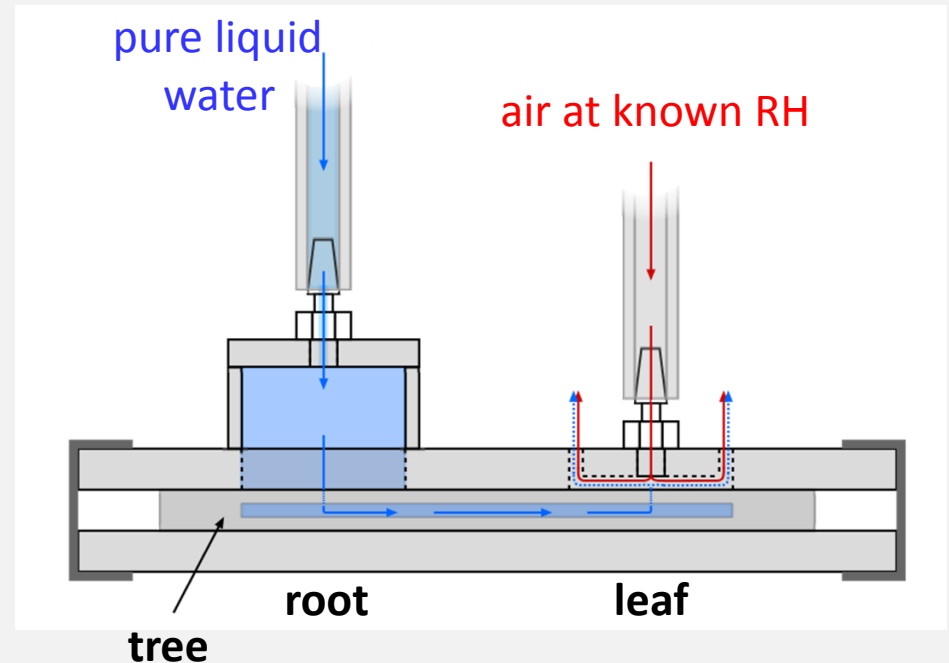
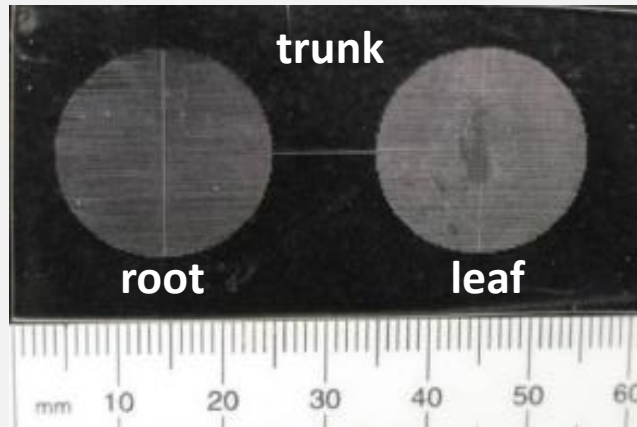
$$T = 25^\circ$$

“atm”: (vapor)

$$a_a = 0.75$$

$$P = P_0$$

$$T = 25^\circ$$



Synthetic trees - negative pressure wicks

“soil”: (liquid)

$$a_s = 1$$

$$P = P_0$$

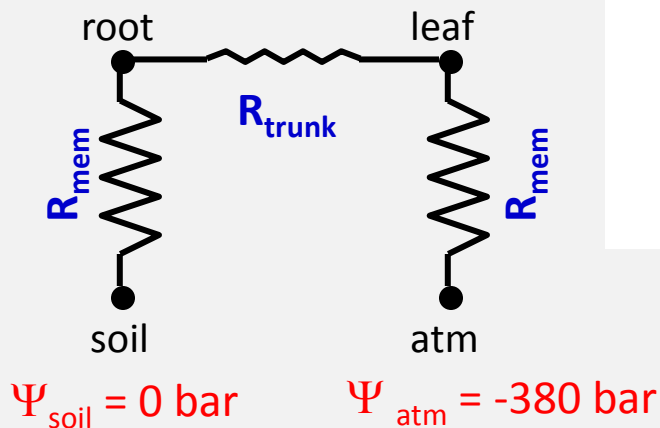
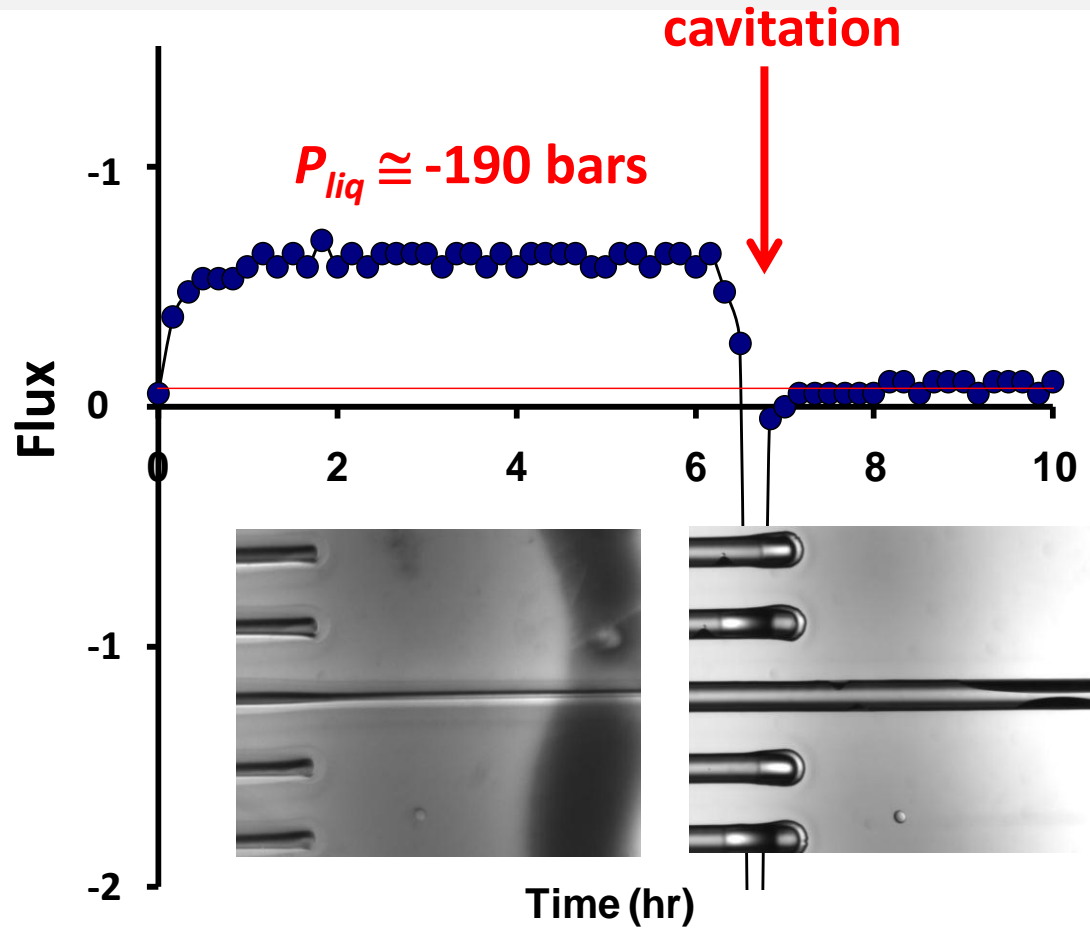
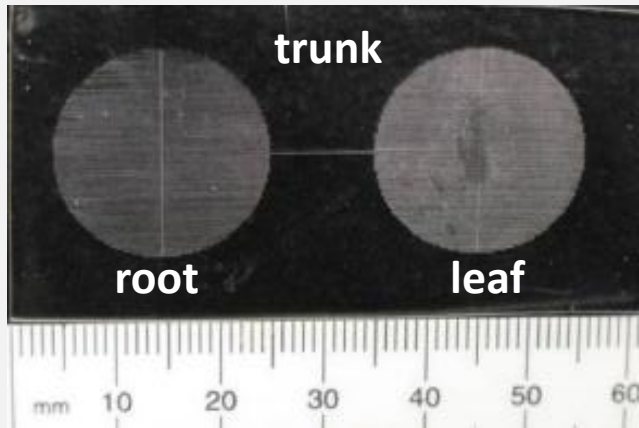
$$T = 25^\circ$$

“atm”: (vapor)

$$a_a = 0.75$$

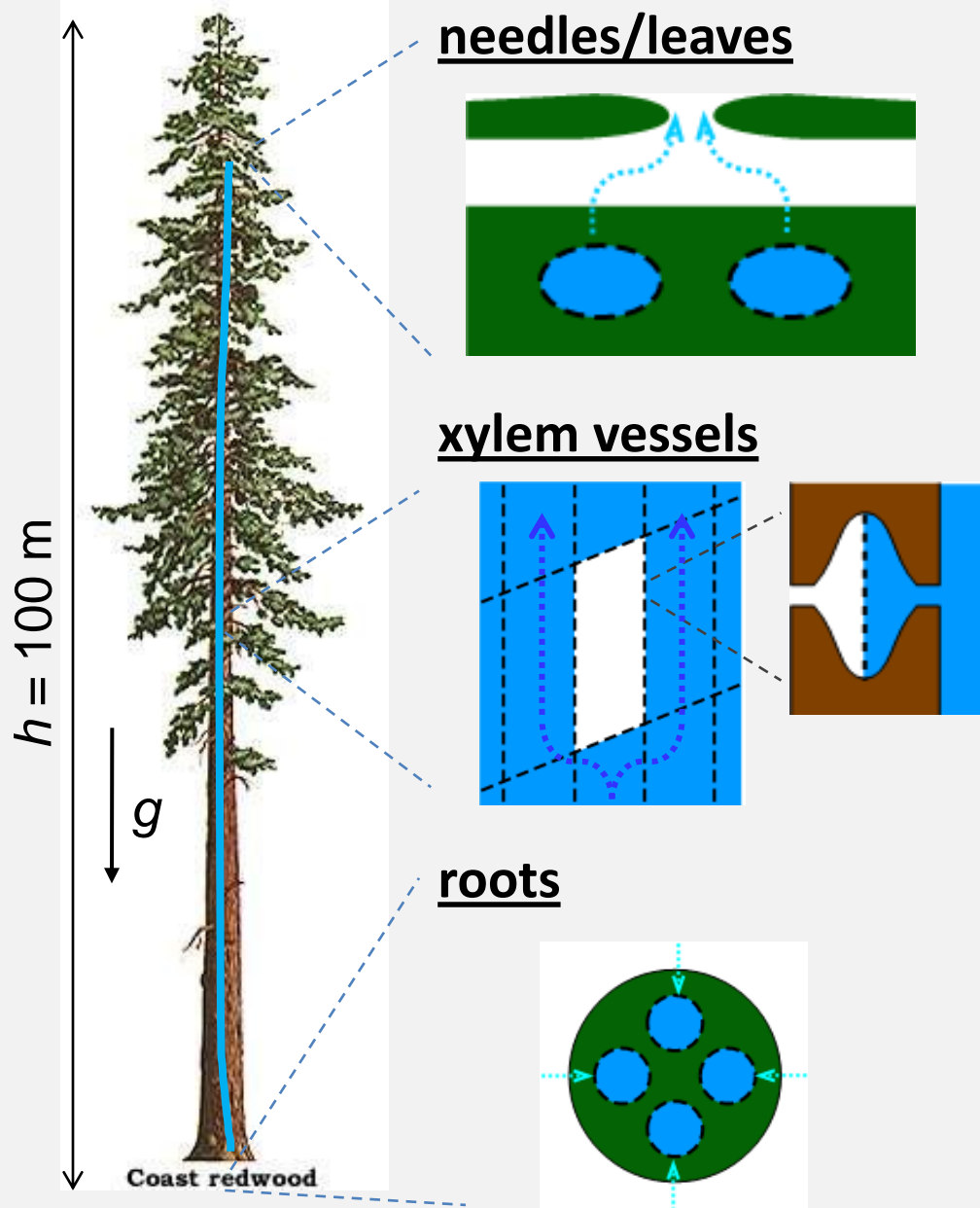
$$P = P_0$$

$$T = 25^\circ$$

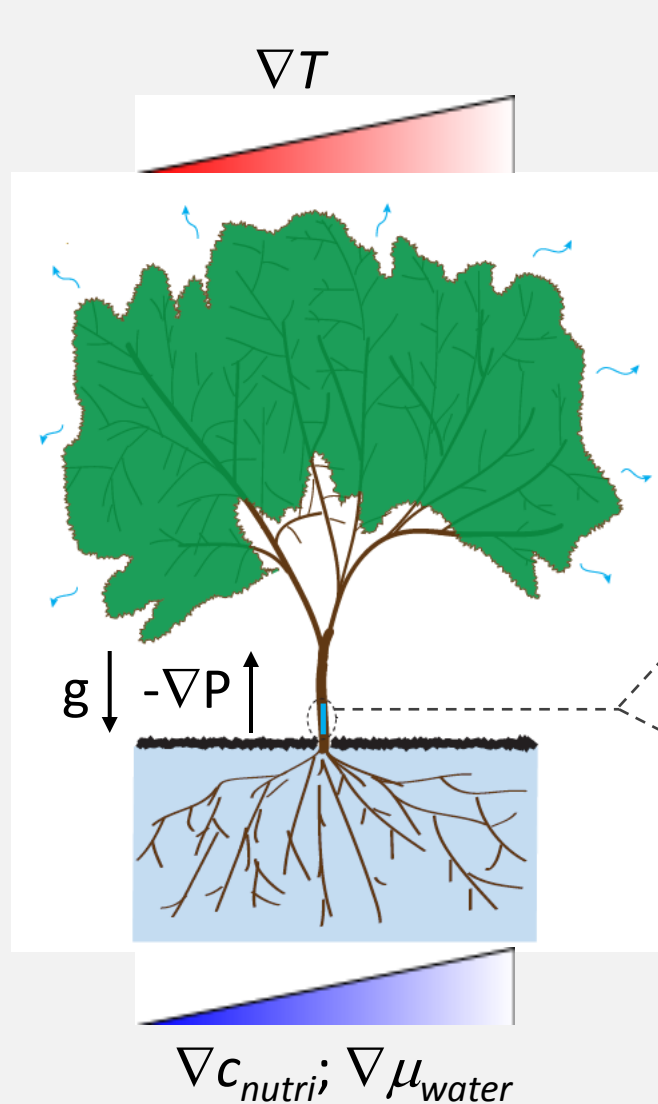


- catastrophic failure
- mechanical collapse
- low flux (large membrane resistance)

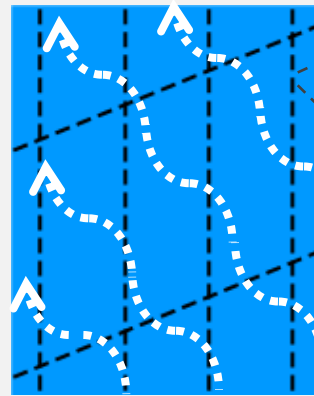
Managing tension



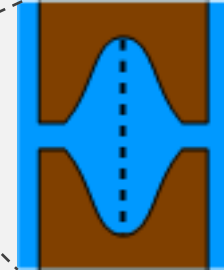
Managing tension – autonomic functions



1. local flow control:



border pit

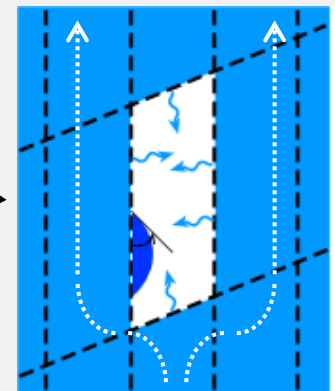
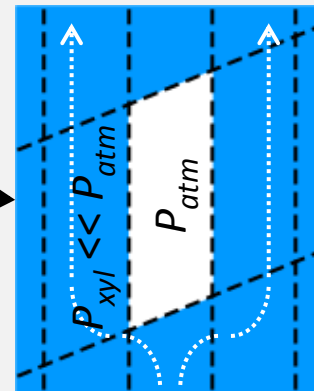
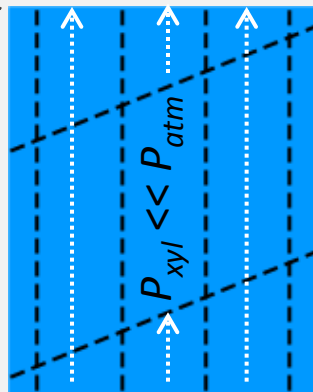


- local control of membrane resistance

2. recovery after cavitation:

cavitation

refilling

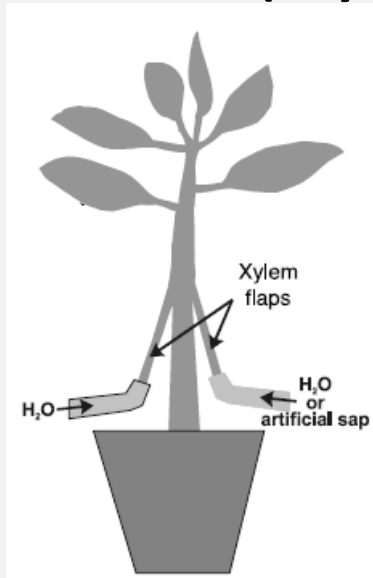


“xylem is dead wood”

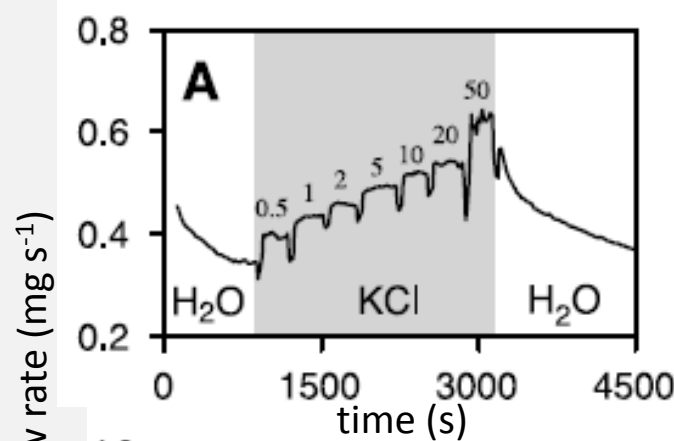
(isolated failure)

1. Flow control – experiments

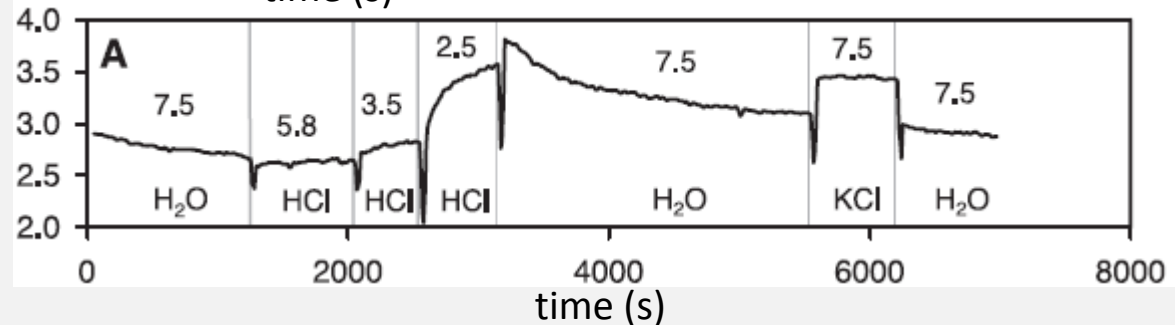
lauris nobilis (bay tree)



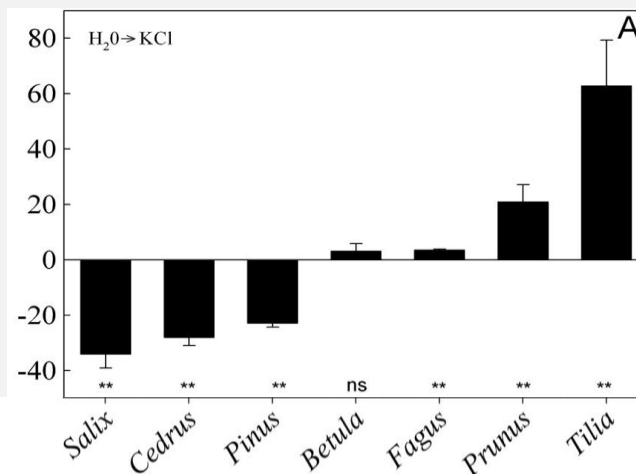
(Zwieniecki et al., Science, 2001)



- resistance ↓ with ionic strength ↑
- resistance ↓ with pH ↓



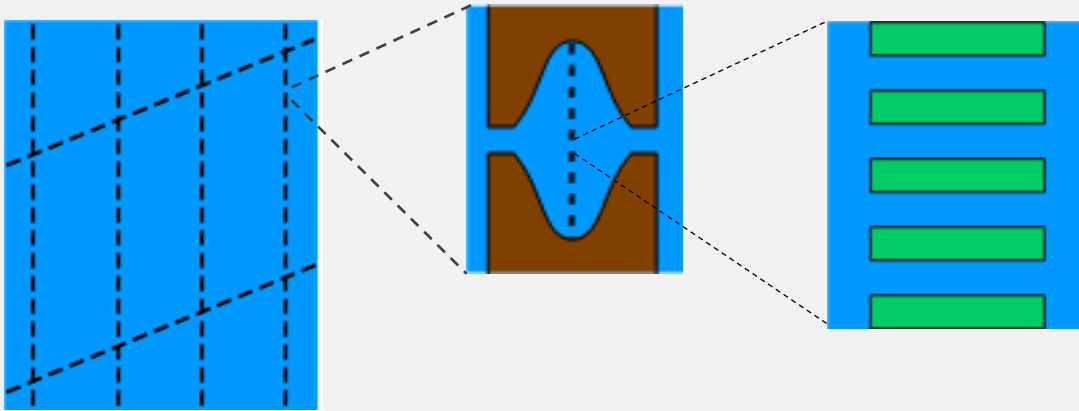
various species



- sign and magnitude depend on species

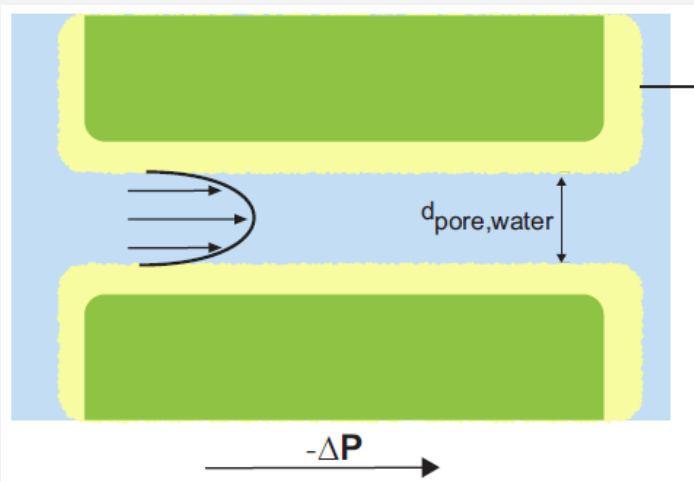
(Cochard et al., J. Exp. Bot., 2009)

1. Flow control – mechanisms

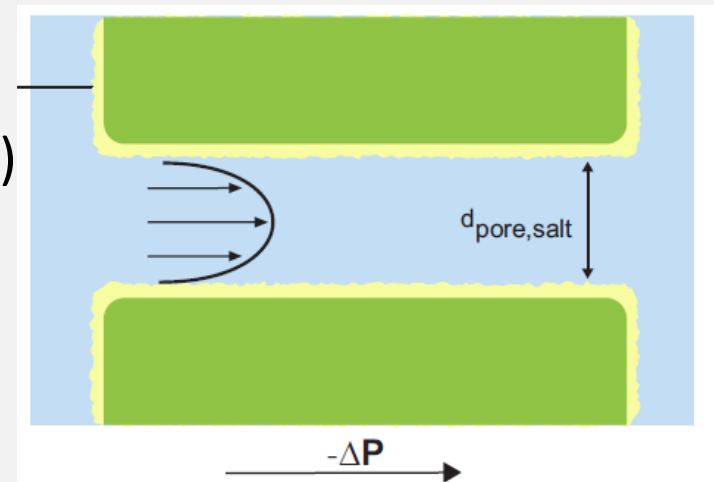


Hydrogel:

low ionic strength/neutral pH
(swollen)

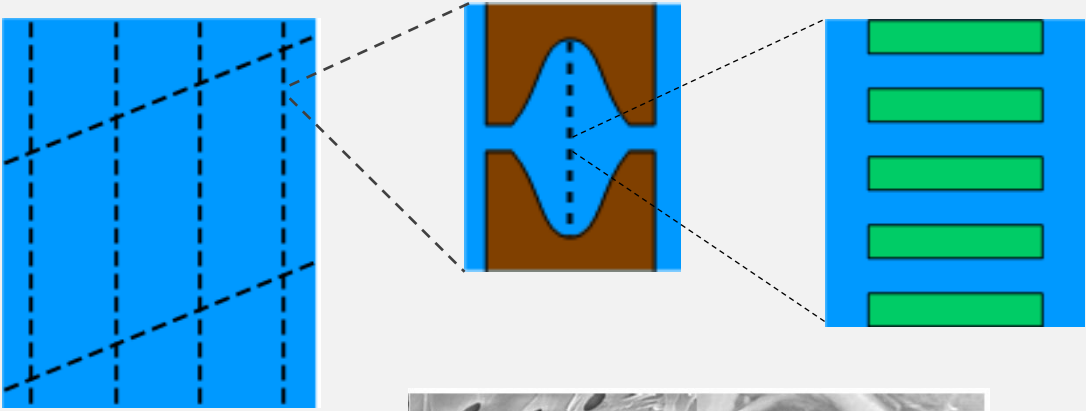


high ionic strength/low pH
(collapsed)



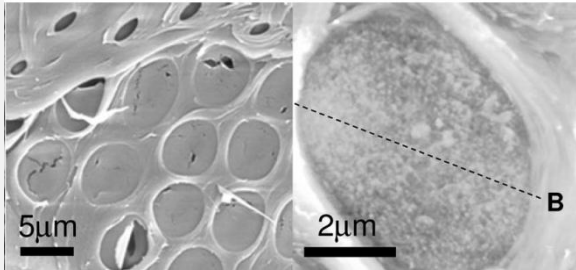
gel
(pectin)

1. Flow control – mechanisms



Hydrogel:

SEM

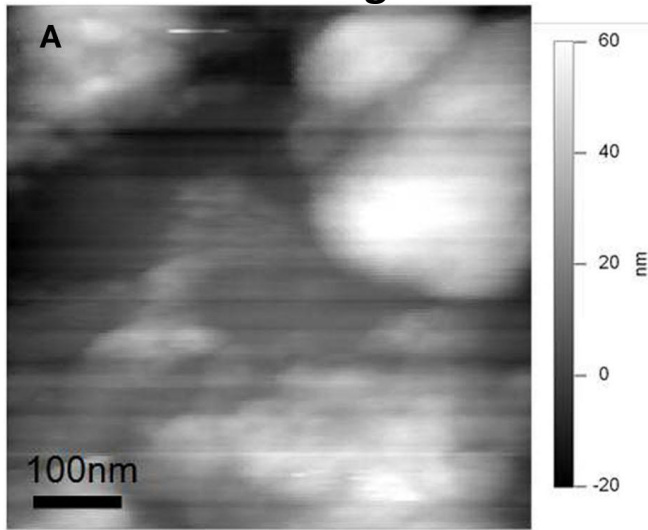


(Lee, Holbrook & Zwieniecki, Front. Plant Sci., 2012)

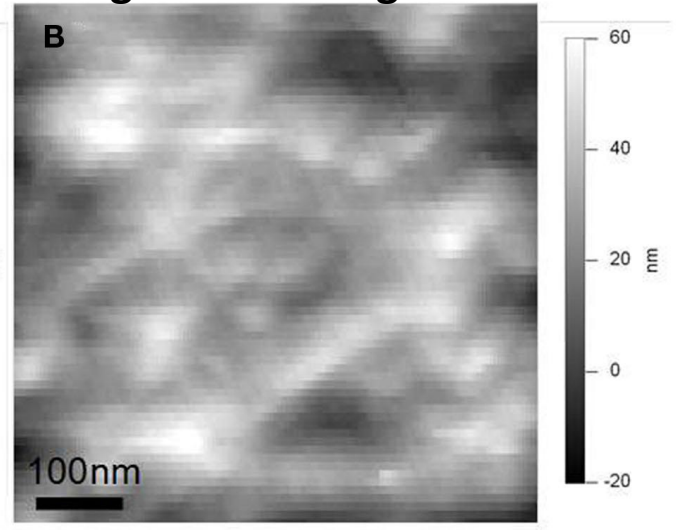
high ionic strength/low pH
(collapsed)

AFM

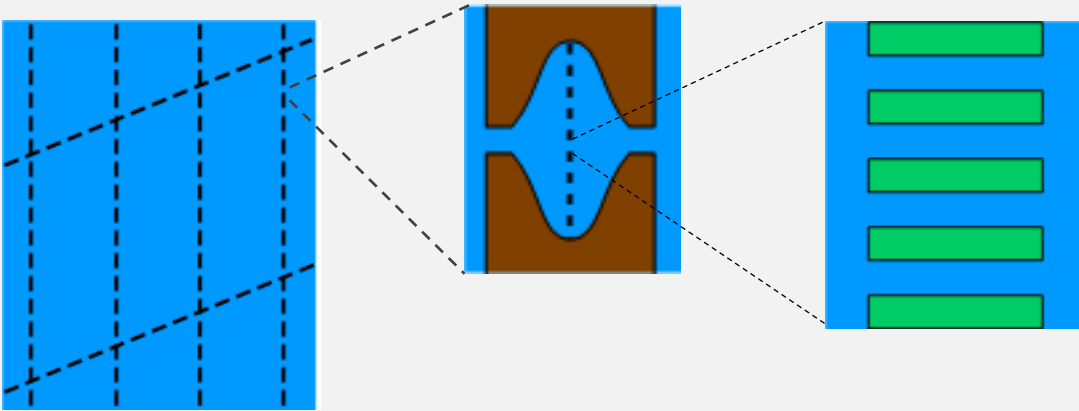
low ionic strength



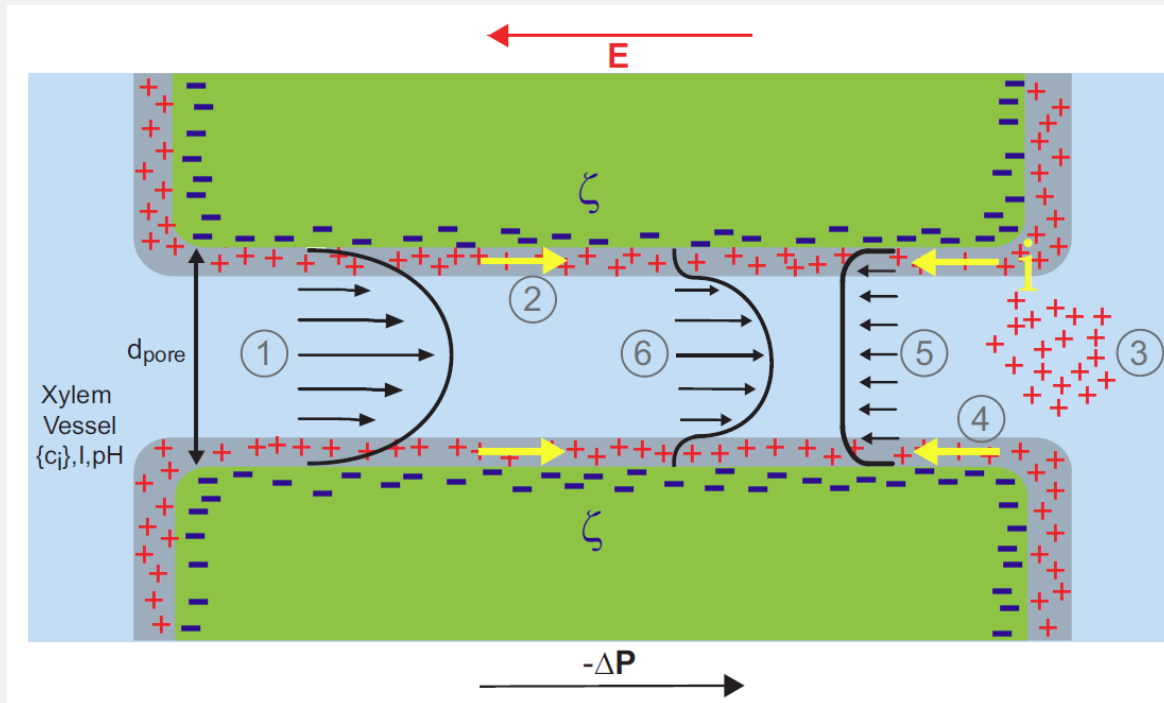
high ionic strength



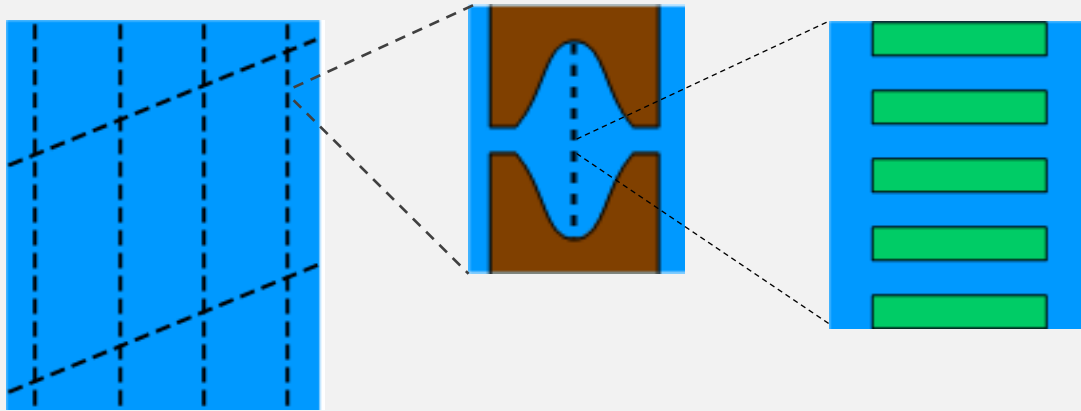
1. Flow control – mechanisms



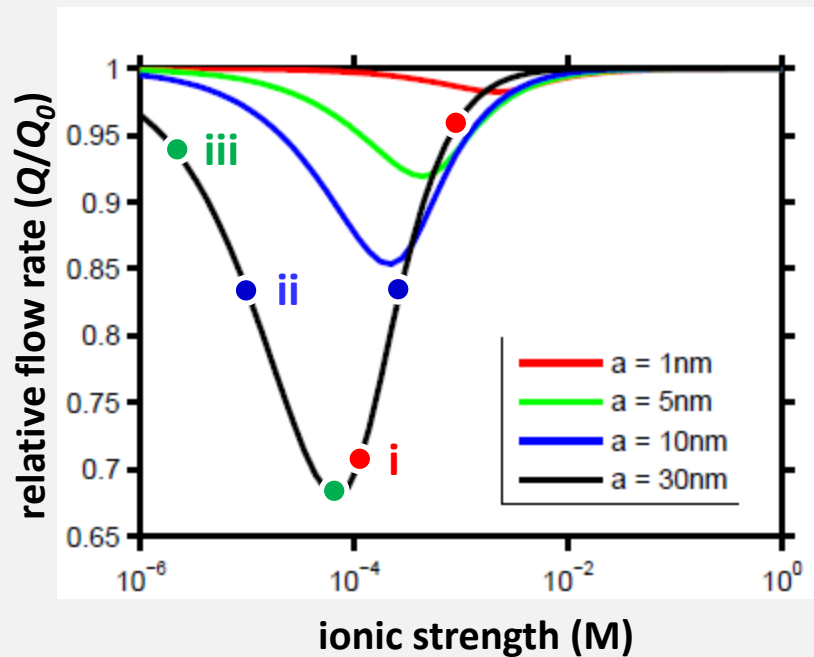
Electroviscous effect:



1. Flow control – mechanisms



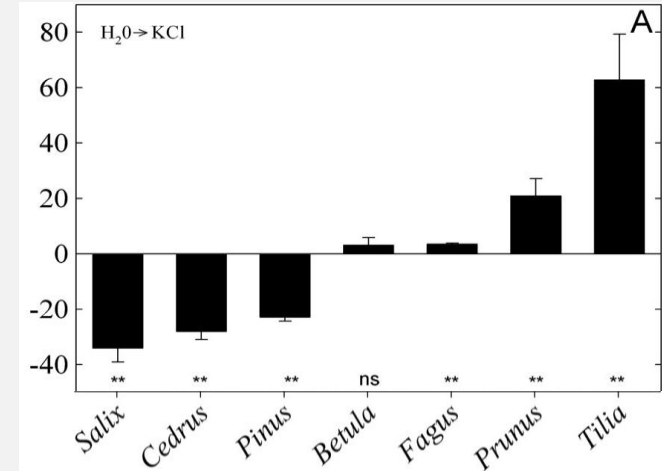
Electroviscous effect:



i. positive

ii. neutral

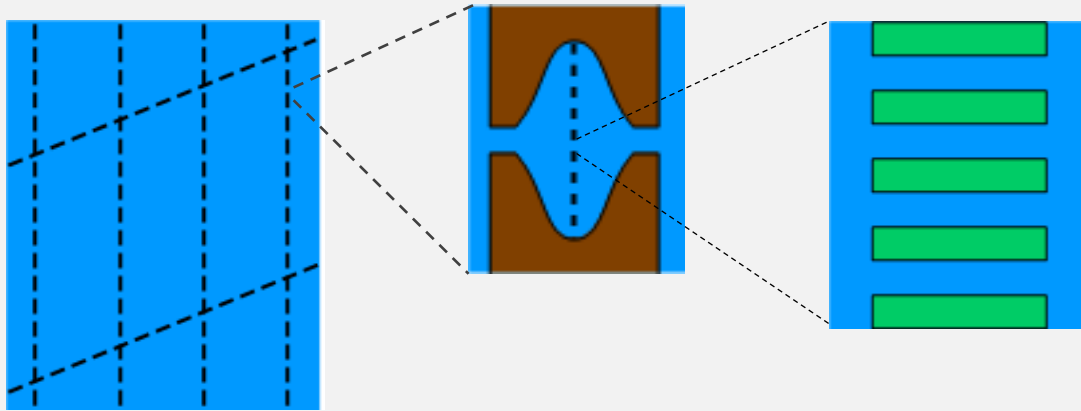
iii. negative



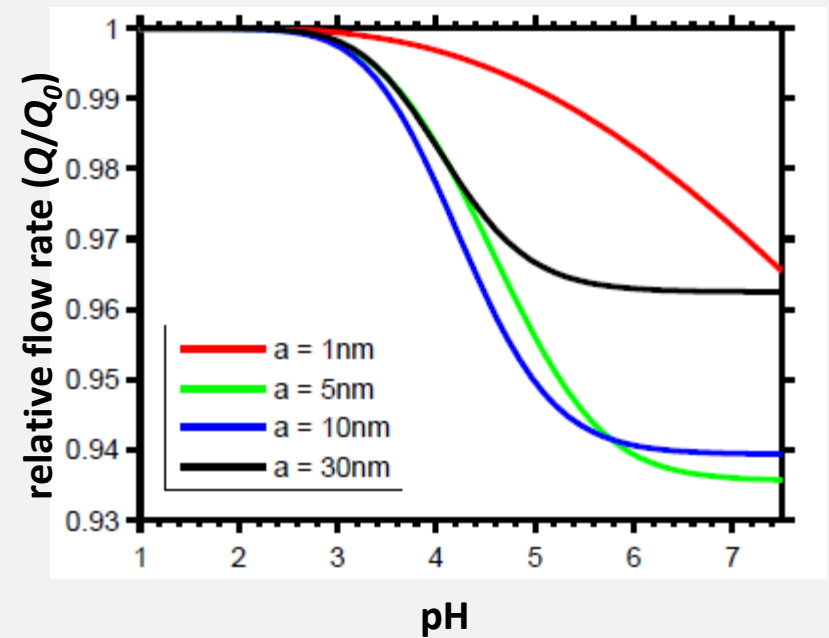
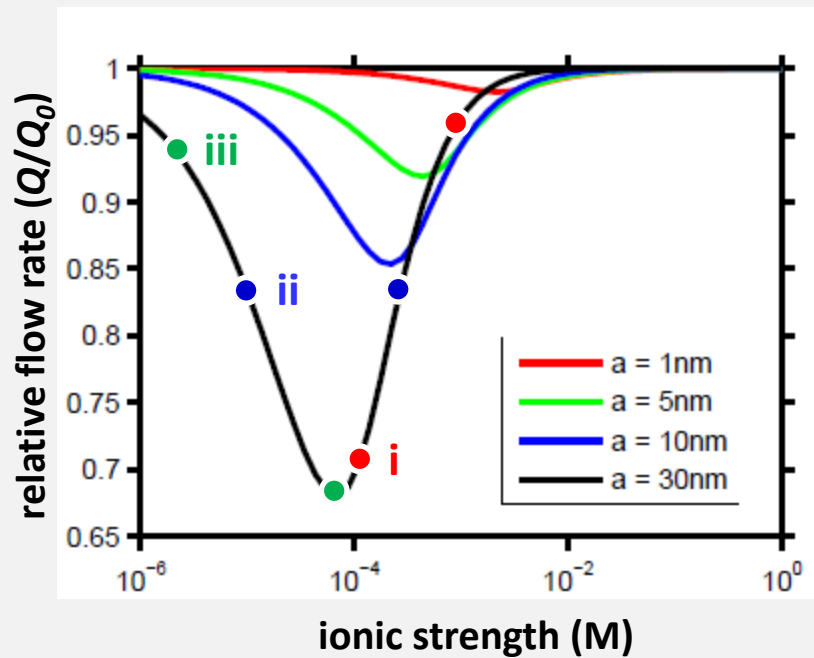
(Cochard et al., J. Exp. Bot., 2009)

(Santiago et al., in preparation, 2012)

1. Flow control – mechanisms



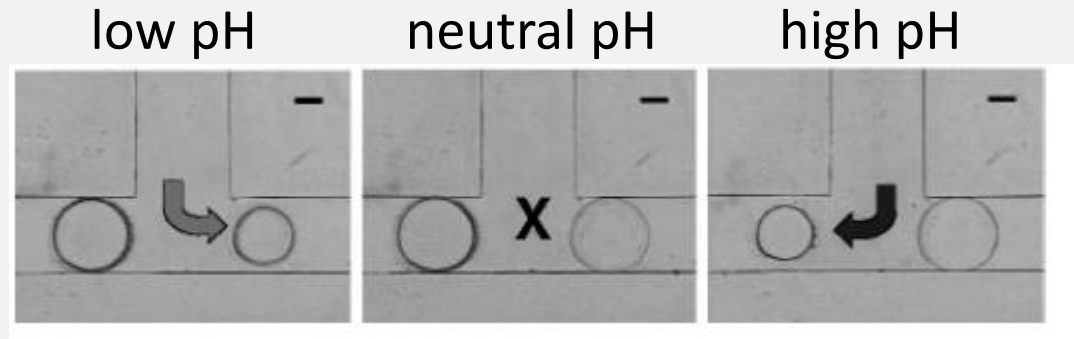
Electroviscous effect:



(Santiago et al., in preparation, 2012)

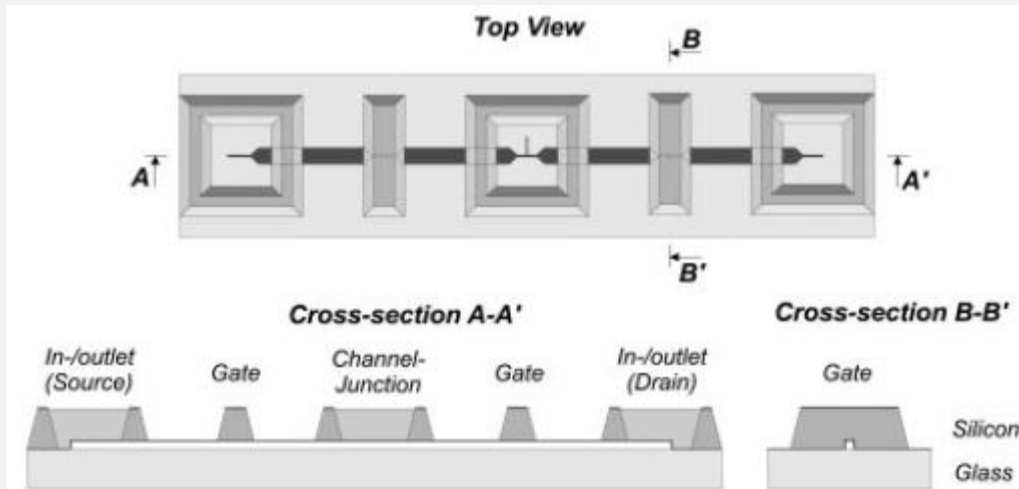
1. Flow control – precedent

Hydrogel:

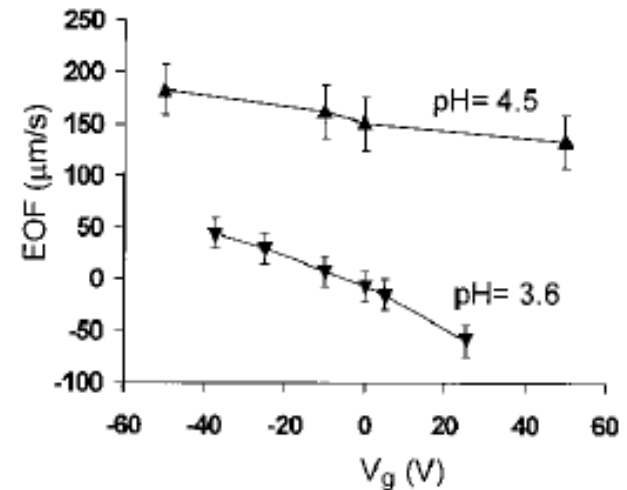


(Beebe et al., Nature, 2000)

Electroviscous effect:



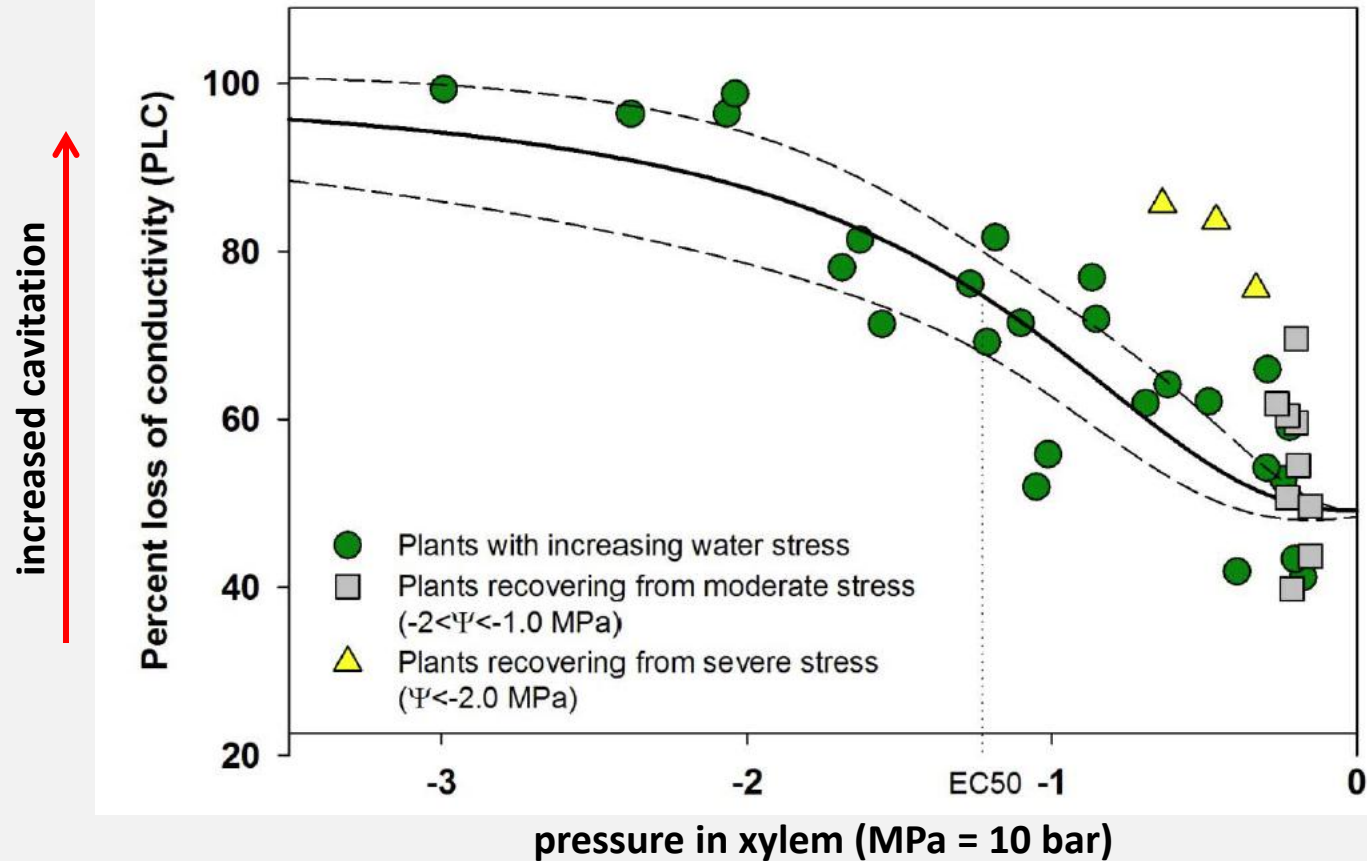
“FlowFET”



(Schasfoort et al., Science, 1999)

2. Refilling – experiments

Populus nigra (black poplar)

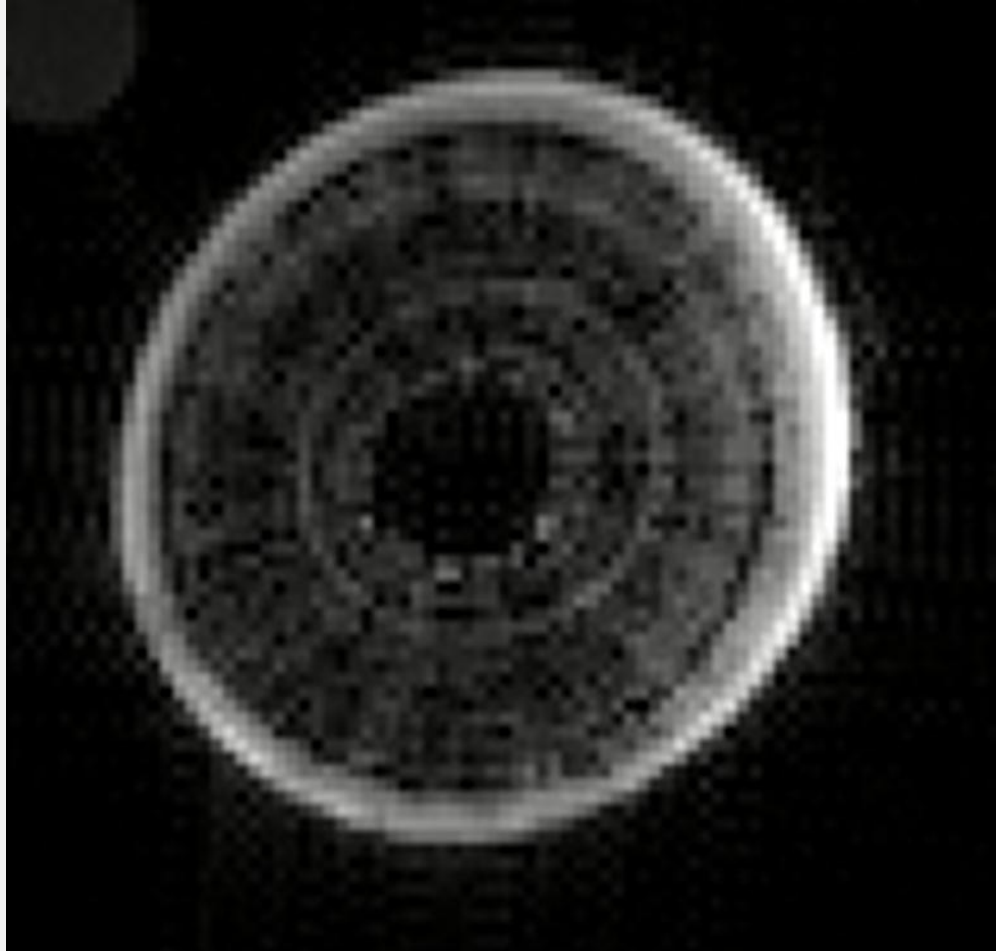


(Secchi and Zwieniecki, 2012)

2. Refilling – experiments

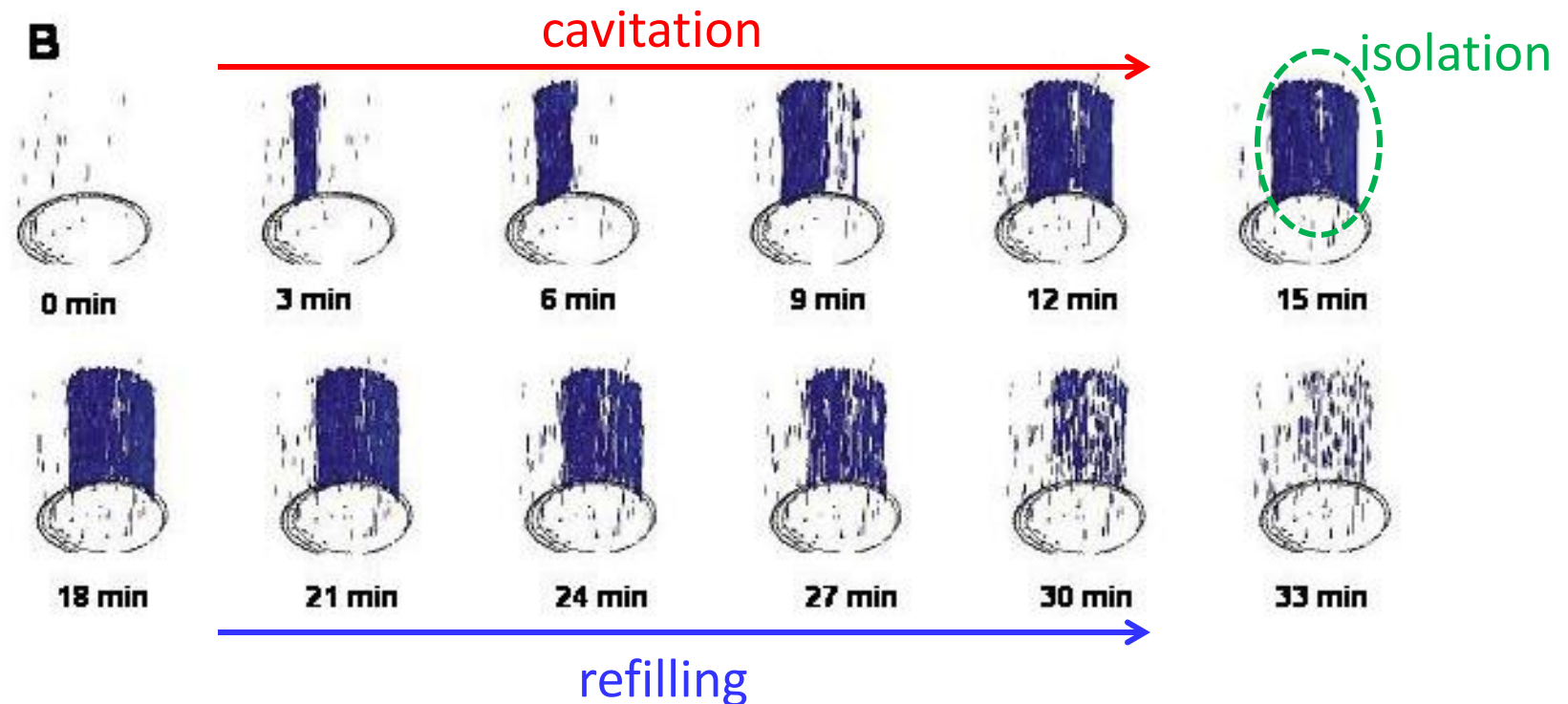
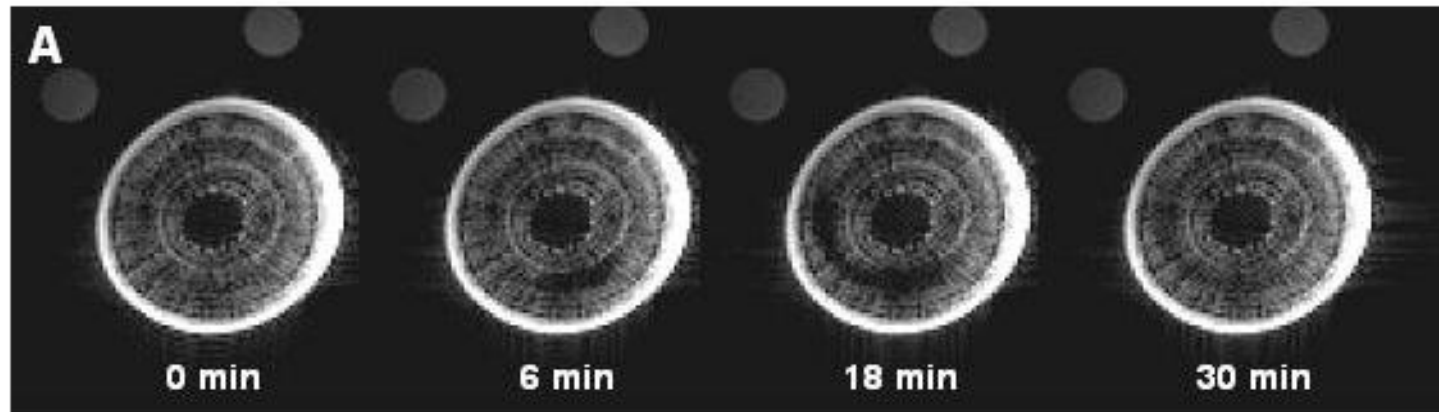
Acer rubrum (red maple); $P_{\text{vessels}} = -5$ bars

MRI
(30 minutes)



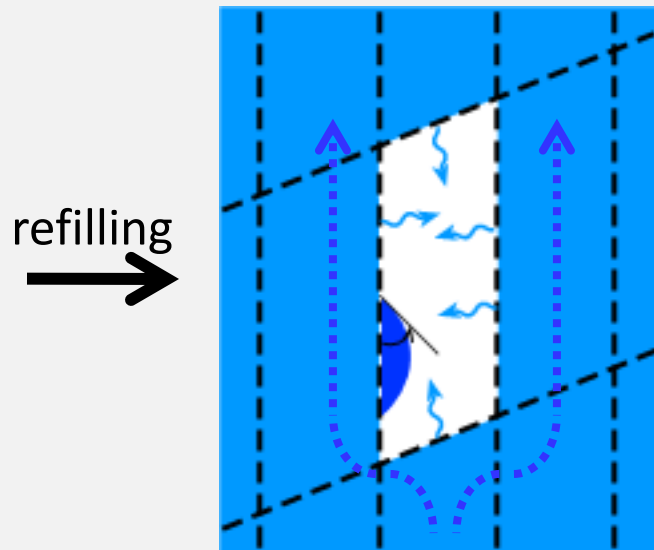
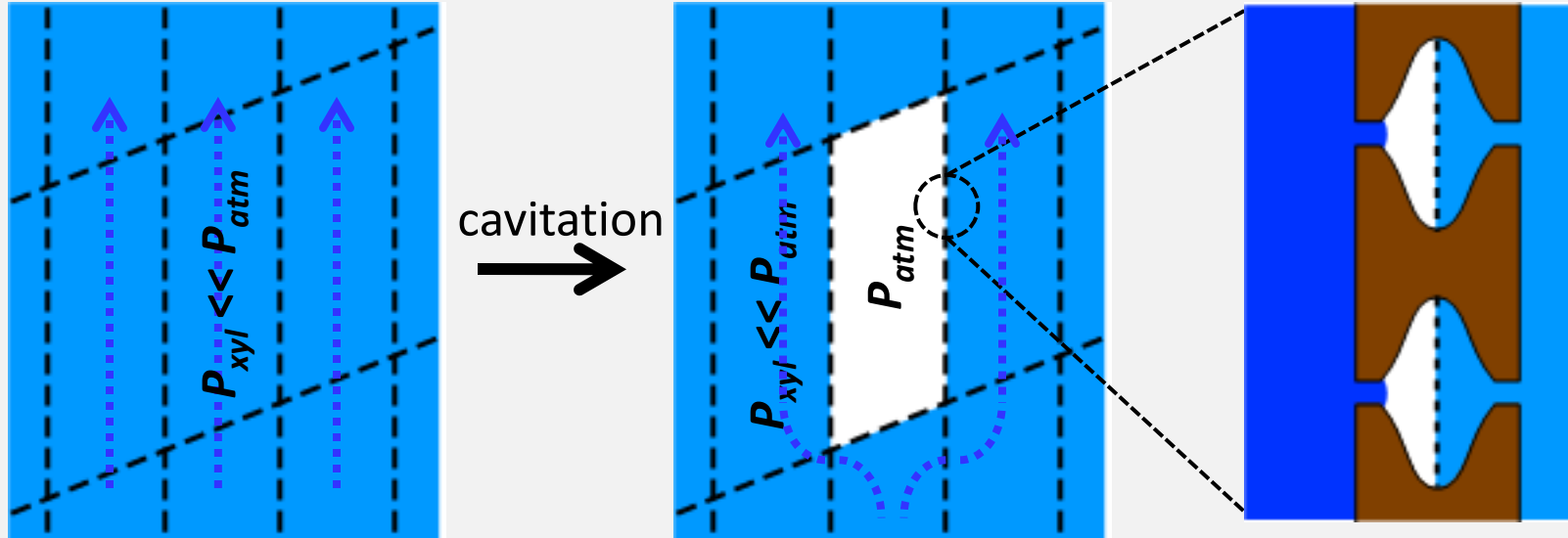
(Zwieniecki, Melcher, Ahrens & Holbrook, in revisions, 2012)

2. Refilling – experiments



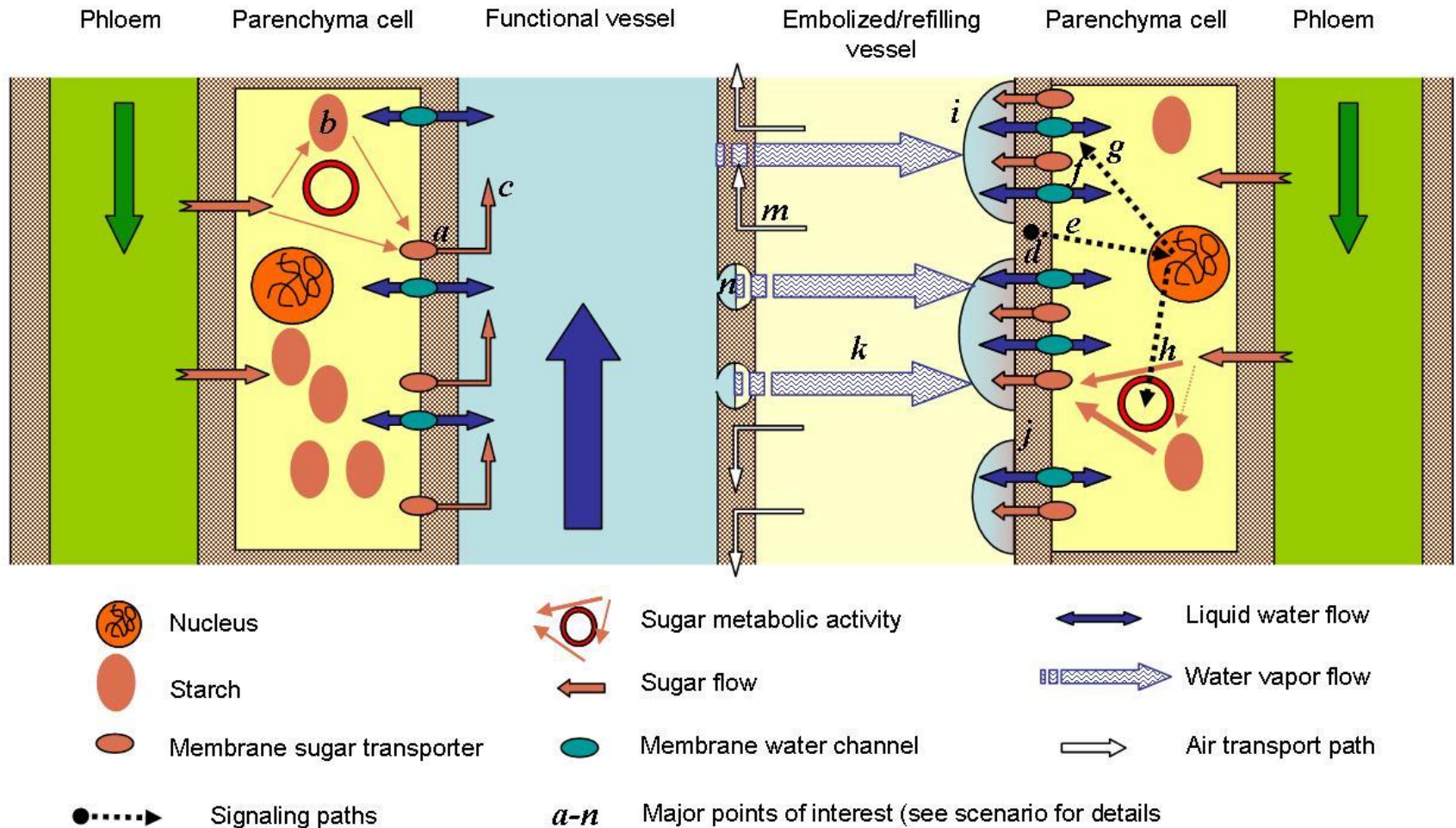
(Zwieniecki, Melcher, Ahrens & Holbrook, in revisions, 2012)

2. Refilling – mechanism?



- trigger?
- transport?
- energy?

2. Refilling – mechanism?

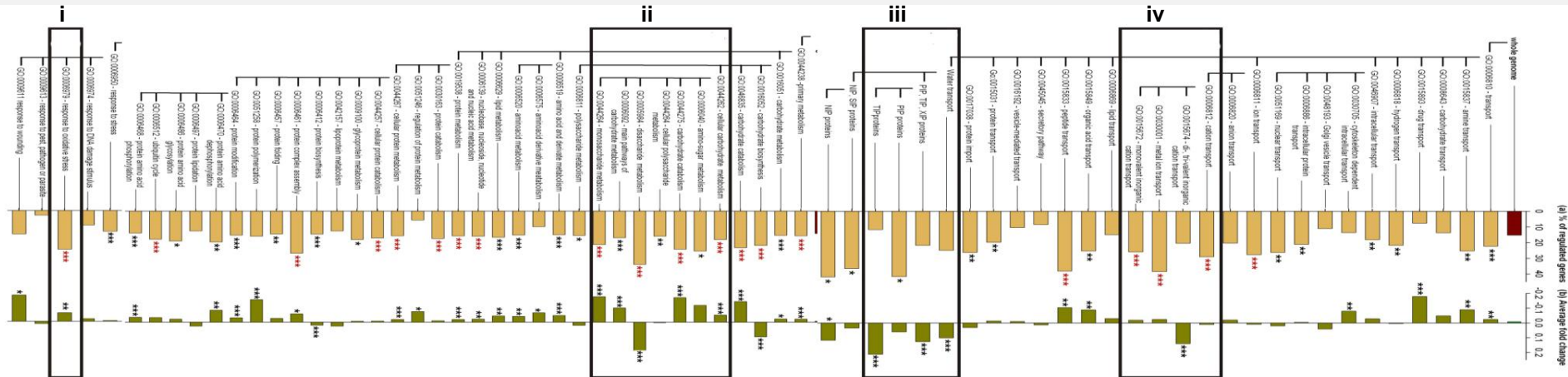


(Zwieniecki & Holbrook, Trends in Plant Sciences, 2009)

2. Refilling – molecular mechanisms

Differential gene expression after induced embolization

Populus trichocarpa (black cottonwood)

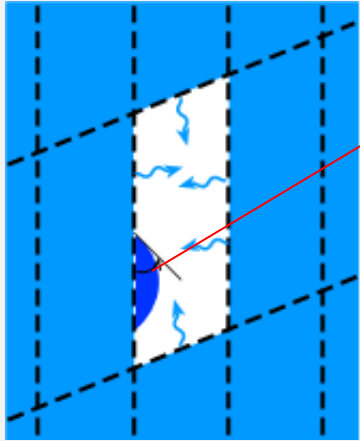


- ~9,000 genes differentially expressed after embolization
- Clues to biochemical and biophysical mechanisms
 - i,ii) pore proteins \Rightarrow **active and passive transport mechanisms**
 - iii) carbohydrate metabolism \Rightarrow **source of deployable energy**
 - iv) down regulation of genes for oxidative stress \Rightarrow **possible trigger**

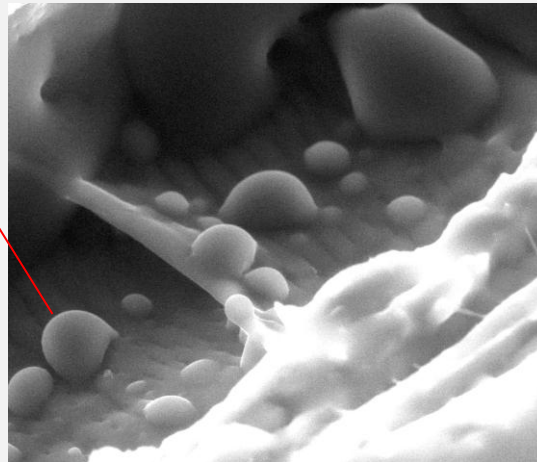
(Secchi et al., Plant Physio, 2011)

2. Refilling – *biophysical mechanisms*

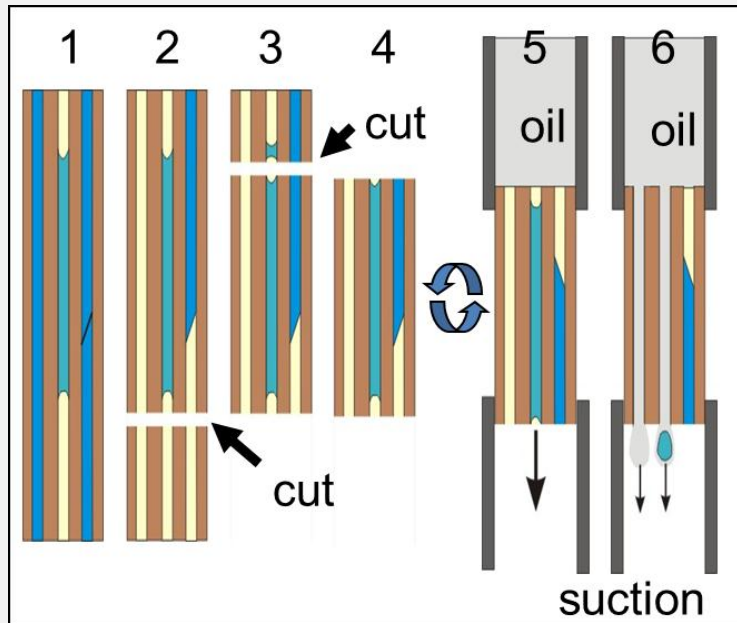
Driving force for refilling?:



what's in this water?



$$\text{activity} = a \leq \exp\left(\frac{\bar{v}(P_{xyl} - P_0)}{RT}\right)$$

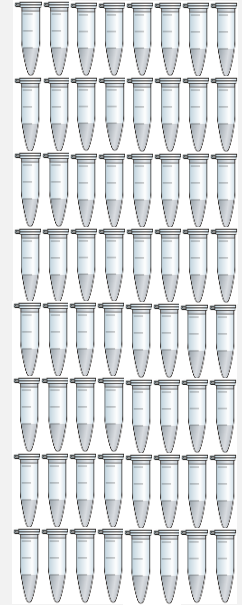
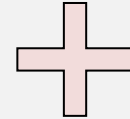
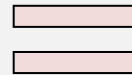
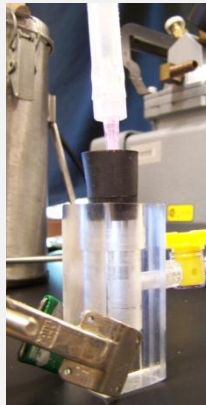
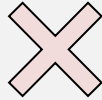


2. Refilling – *biophysical mechanisms*

P. nigra (black poplar)

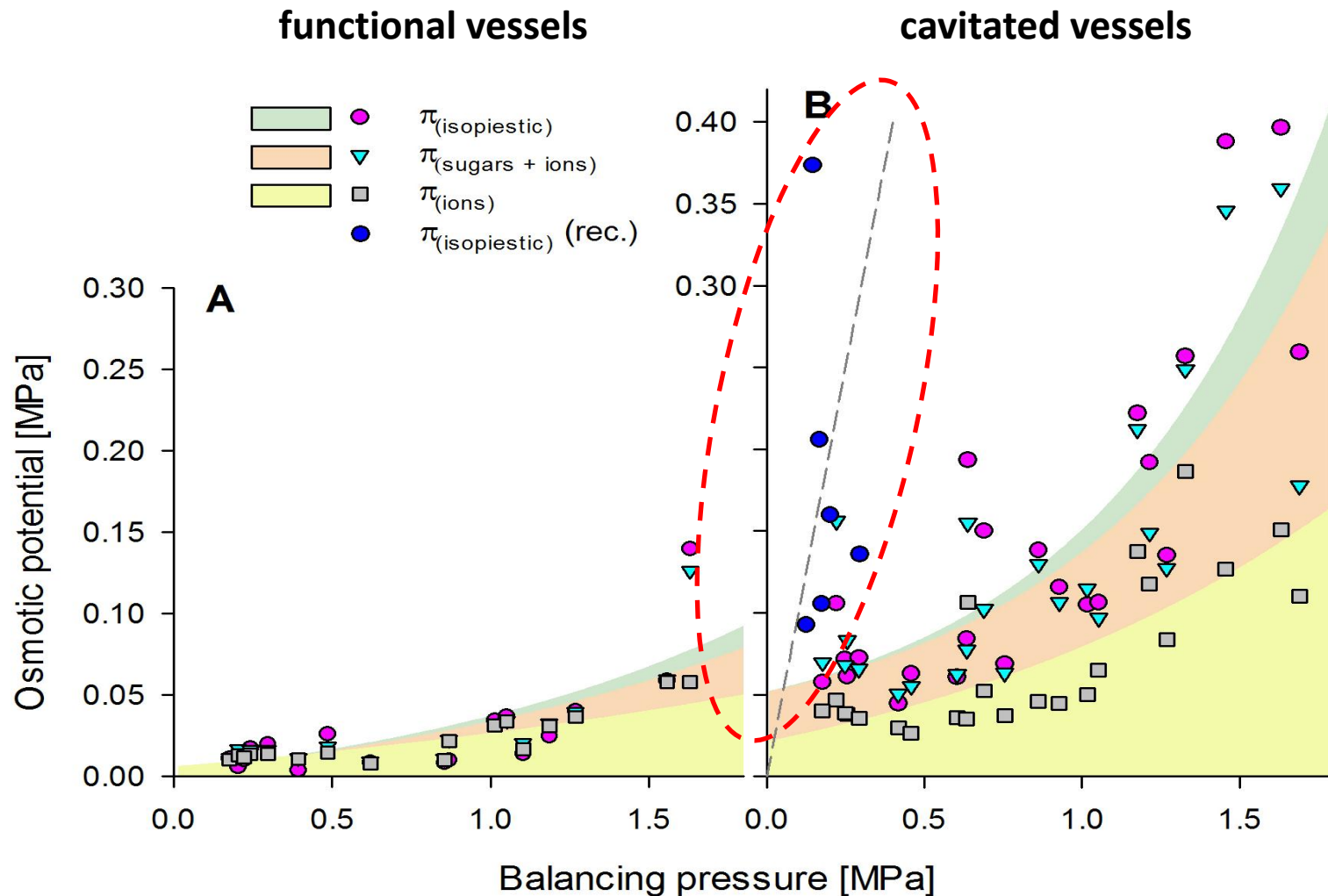


Francesca Secchi



Secret formula for water collection

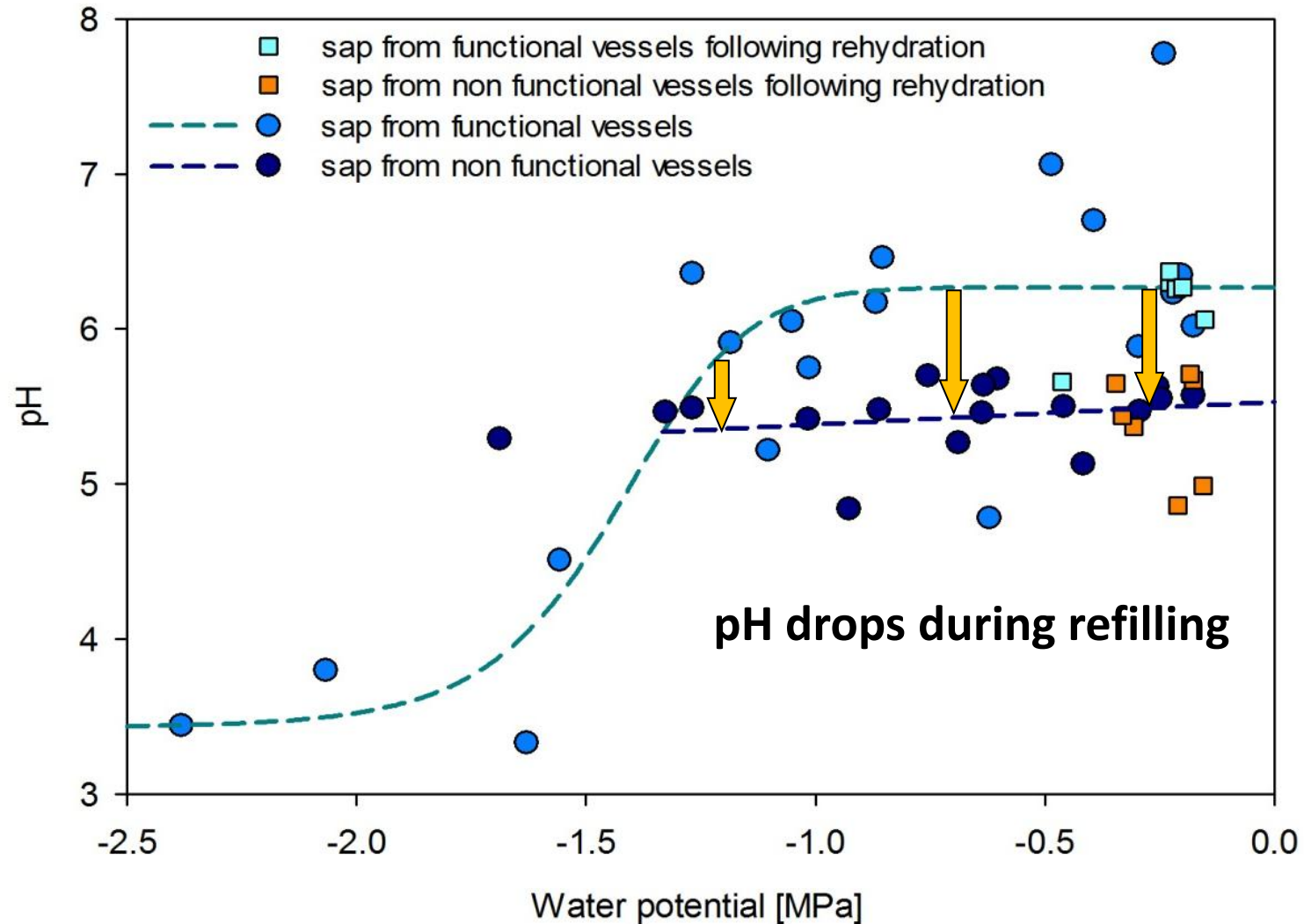
2. Refilling – *biophysical mechanisms*



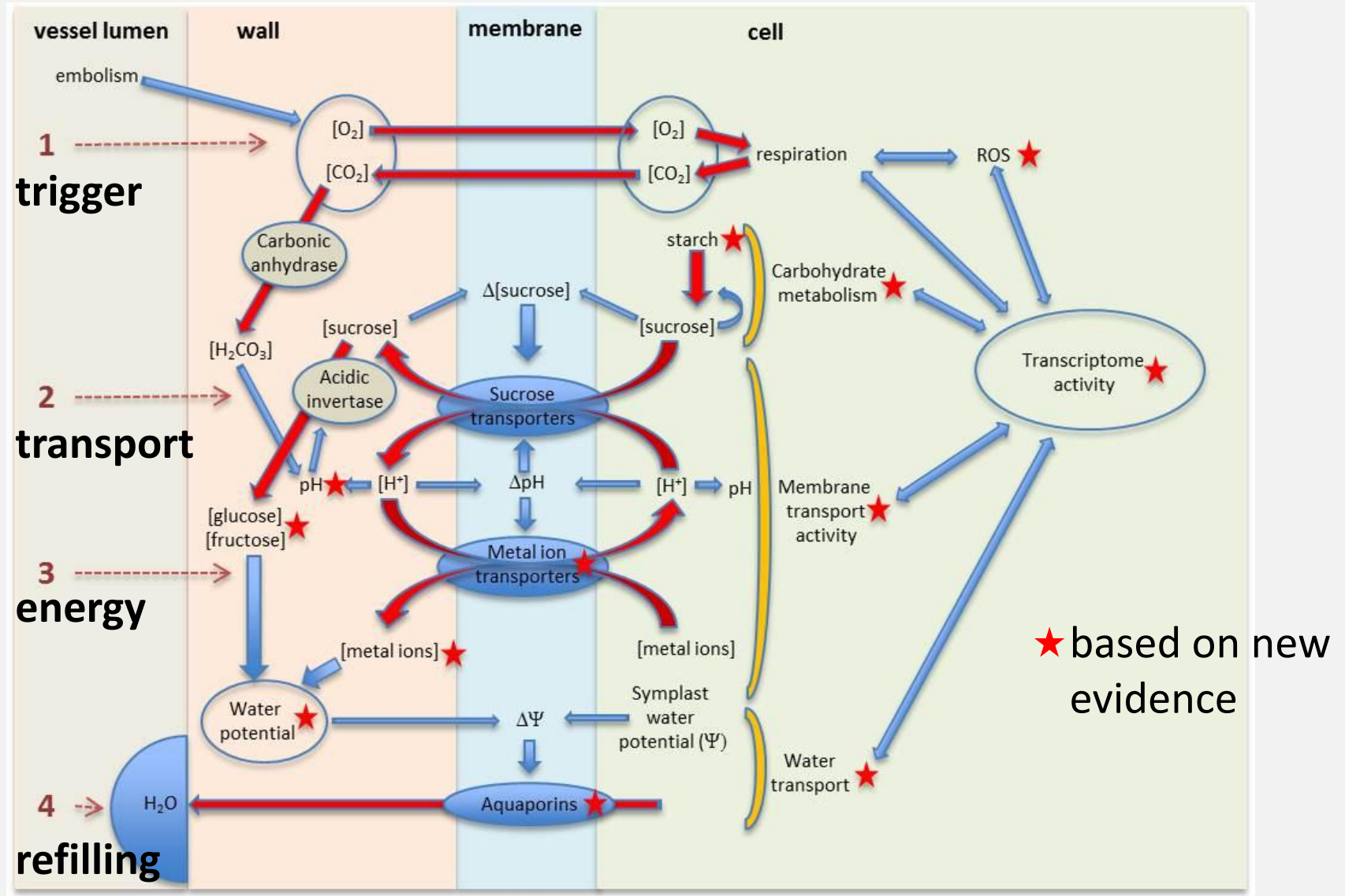
- **osmolarity balances stress in rehydrated plant**

(Secchi & Zwieniecki, Plant Physio, 2012)

2. Refilling – *biophysical mechanisms*



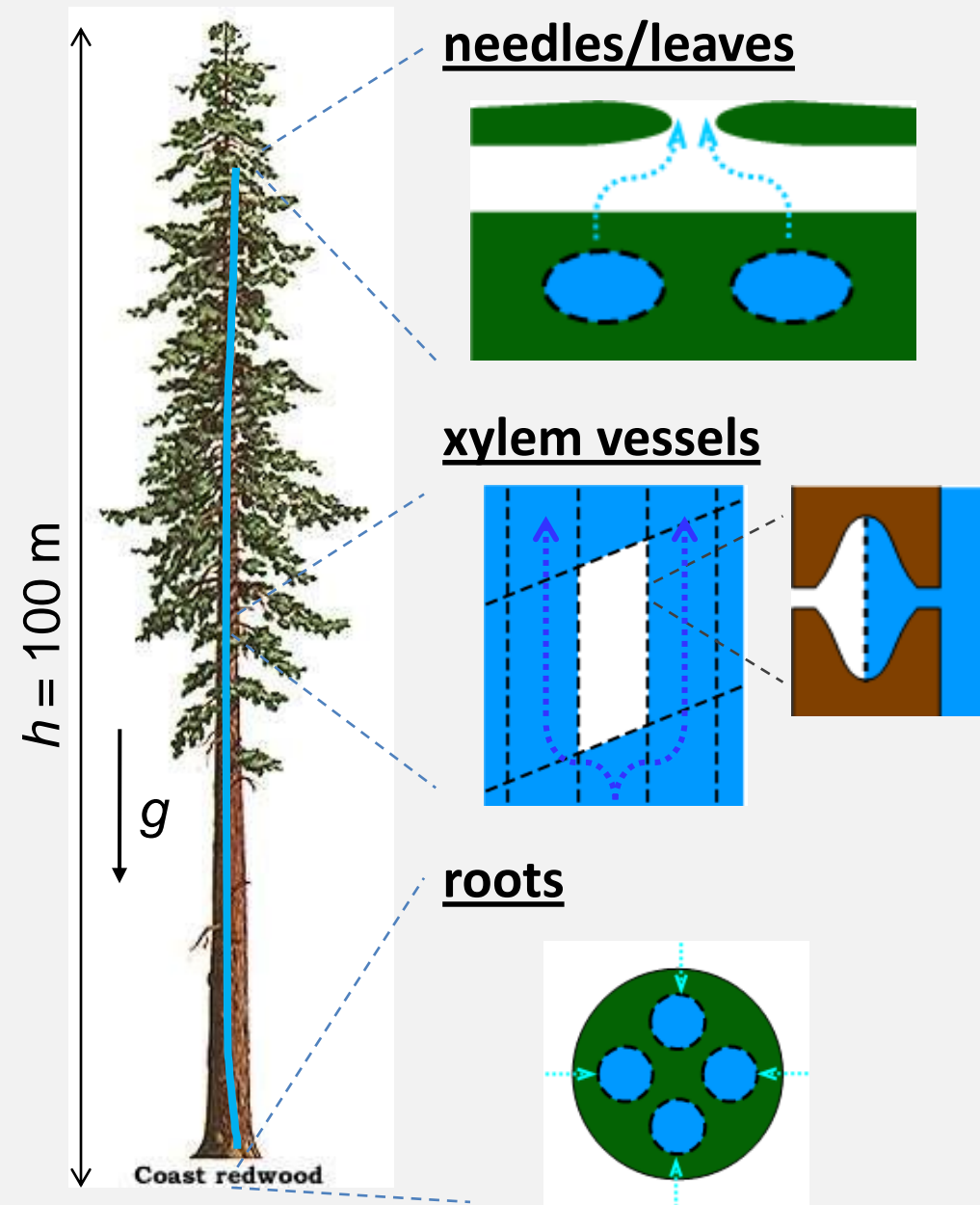
2. Refilling – emerging picture



⇒ Not “dead wood”!

(Secchi & Zwieniecki, Plant Physio, 2012)

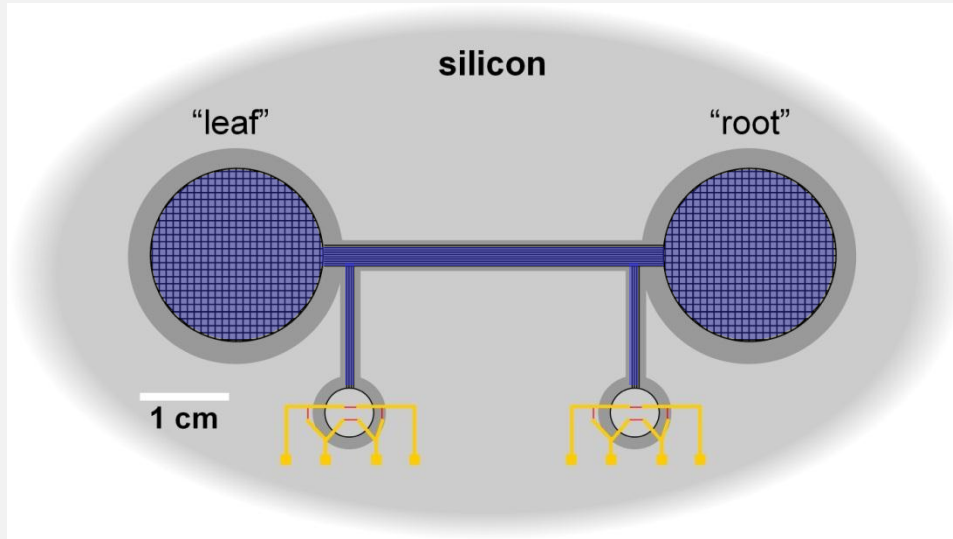
Synthetic tree – challenges



- **Material multifunctionality:**
 - high modulus
 - high thermal conductivity
 - integrated *nano-scale* and scale porosity
- **Integrated analysis:**
 - pressure, temperature, fluxes
- **Management of metastability:**
 - isolating cavitation (boiling) events
 - repairing cavitated zones
- **Fundamental understanding:**
 - transport and thermodynamics of liquids at NP

Synthetic tree – version 2.0

- Wicks for negative pressure heat pipes



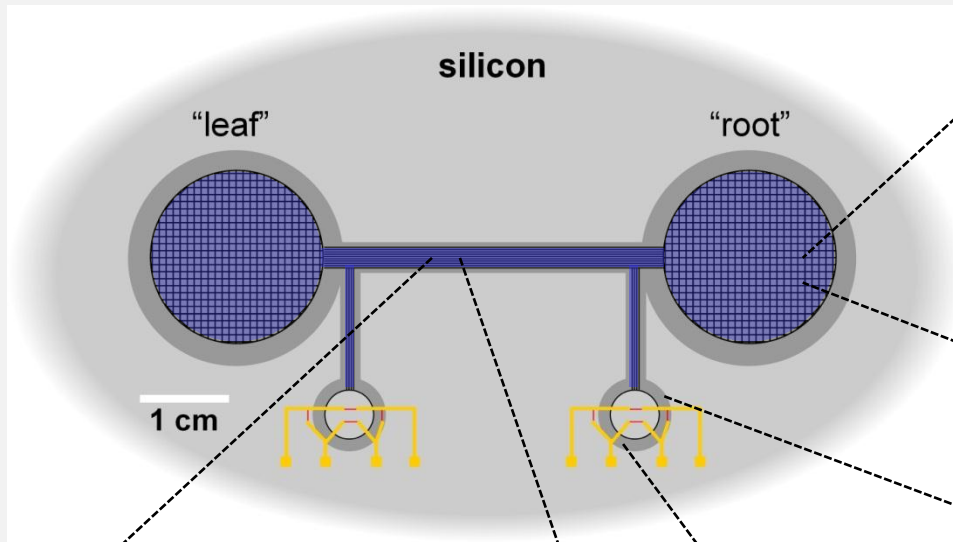
- **Silicon MEMS platform**

- mechanical + thermal properties
- integration of sensors (pressure, temperature, flux)

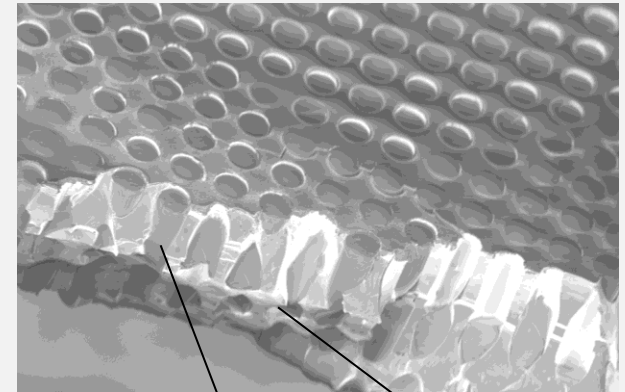
- **Composite structures**

- selective porosity
- large stresses/large fluxes
- failure isolation

Synthetic tree – version 2.0



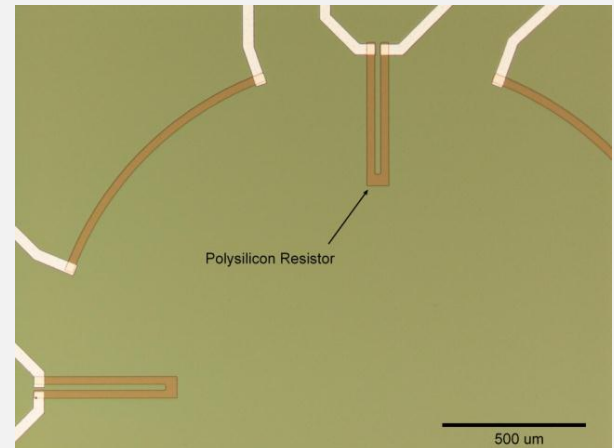
composite membrane



silica
solgel

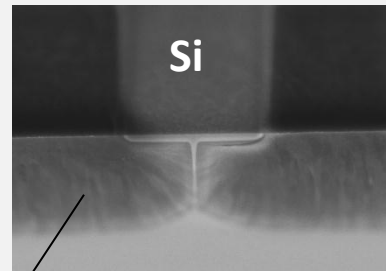
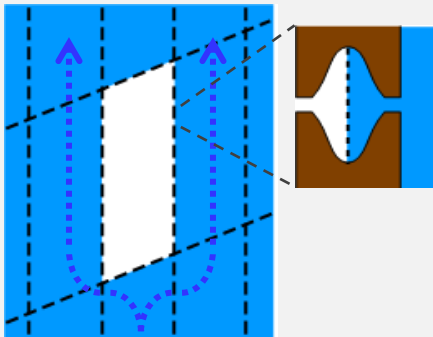
silicon

piezoresistive pressure sensors



$\Rightarrow (\mu, P, T)$

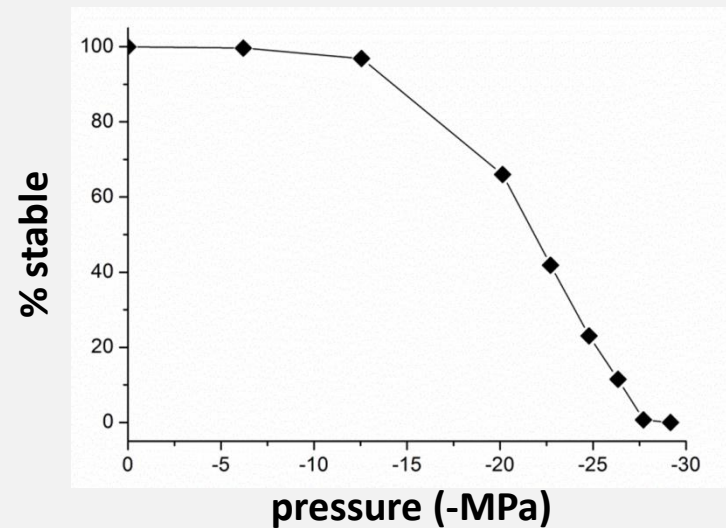
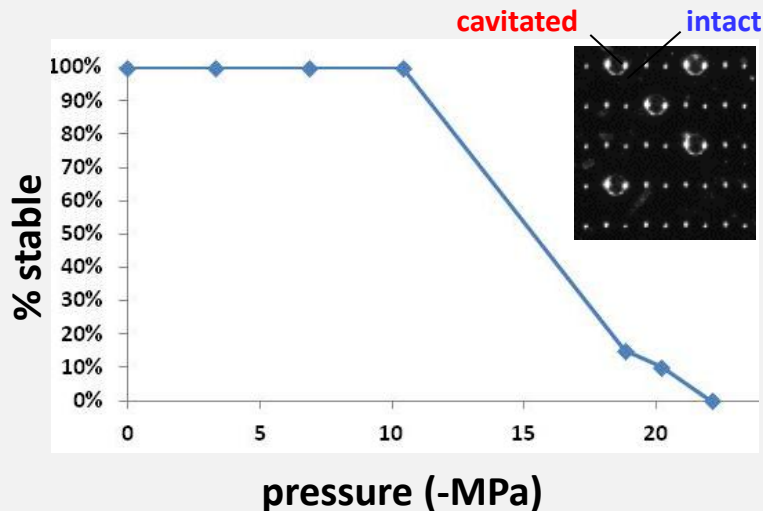
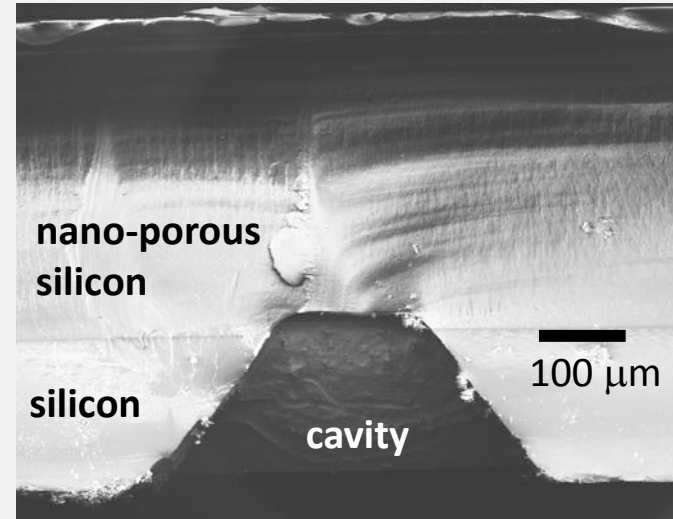
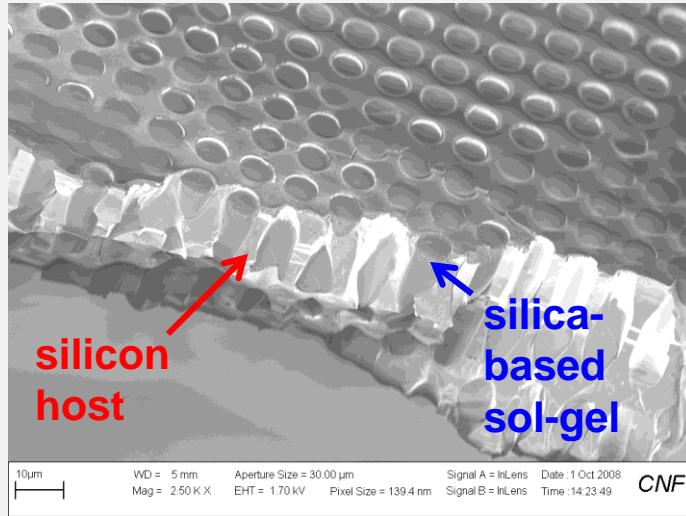
segmented vessels



nanoporous silicon

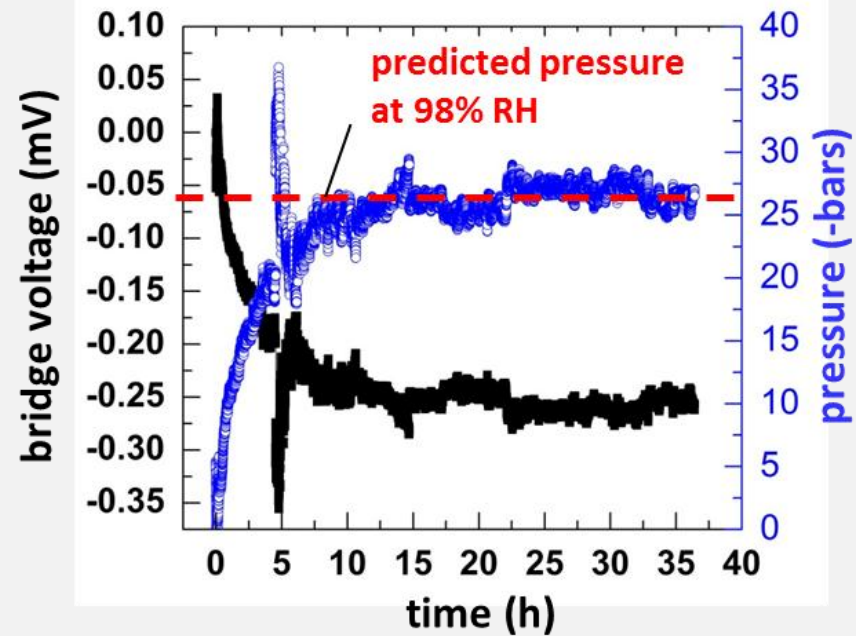
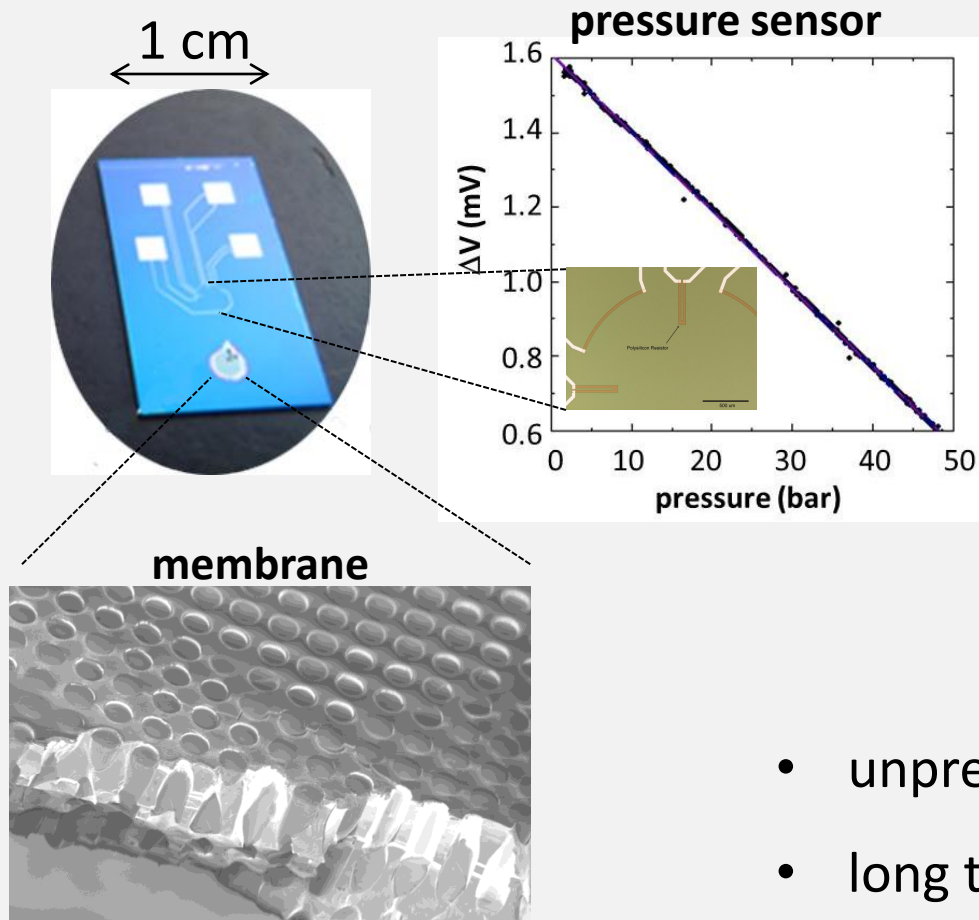
Synthetic tree – root/leaf membranes:

root/leaf membranes:



⇒ 100% stability to -100 bars

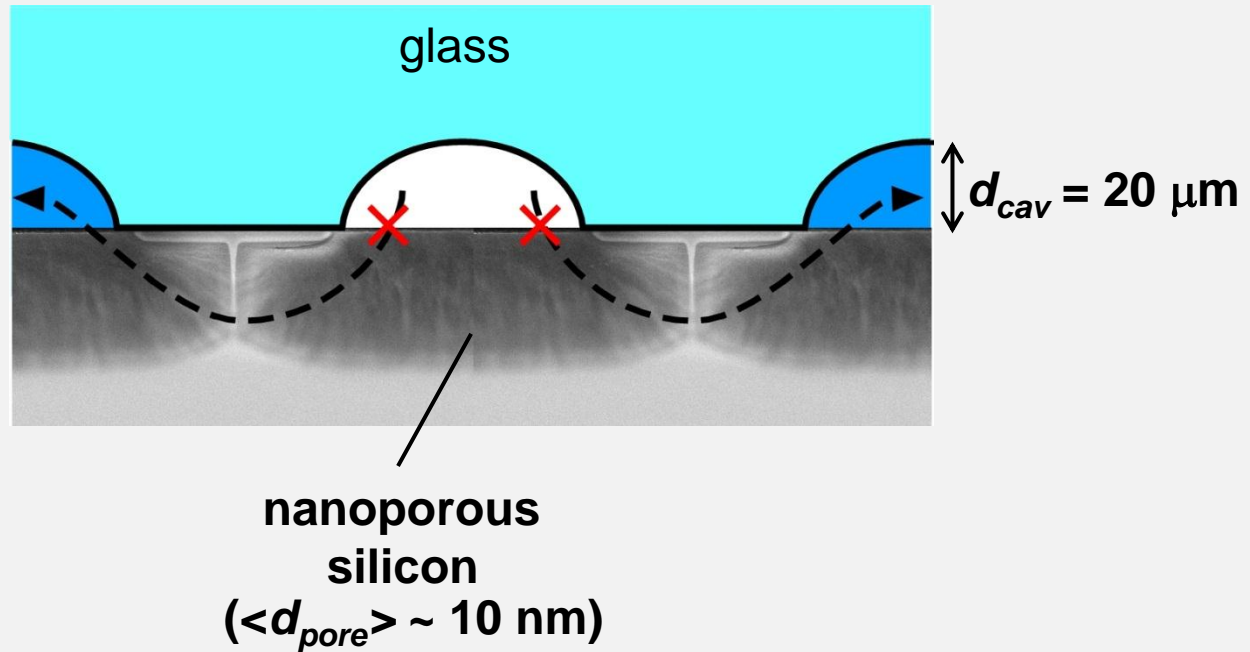
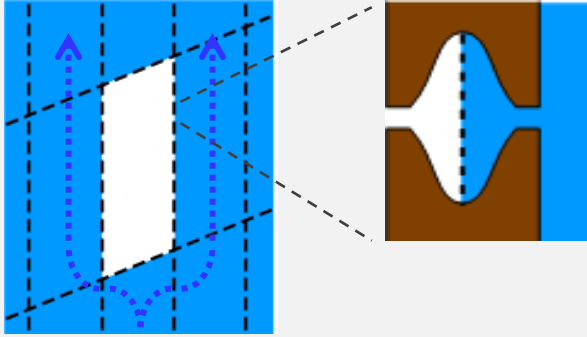
Synthetic tree – integration



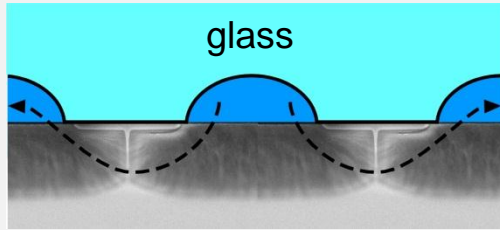
- unprecedented range
- long transients...
- embedding?

Synthetic trees – *segmented xylem*

segmented vessels

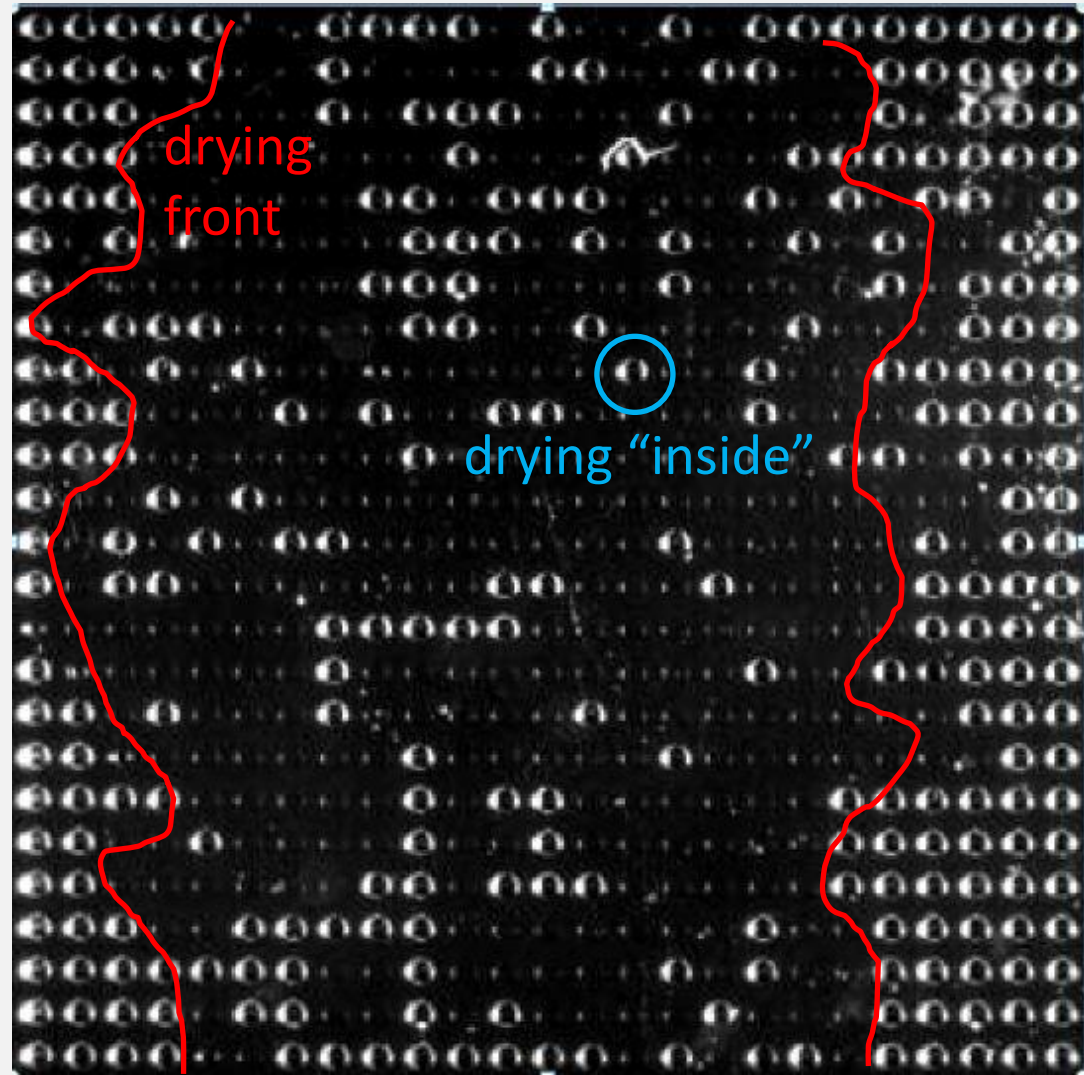
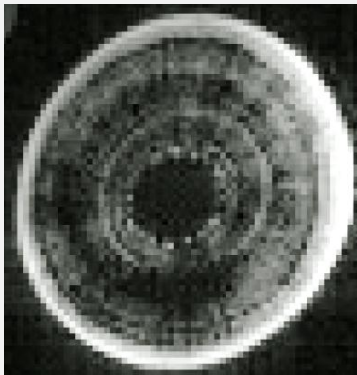


Synthetic trees – segmented xylem



drying
($a_{\text{atm}} = 0.73$)

←



drying
($a_{\text{atm}} = 0.73$)

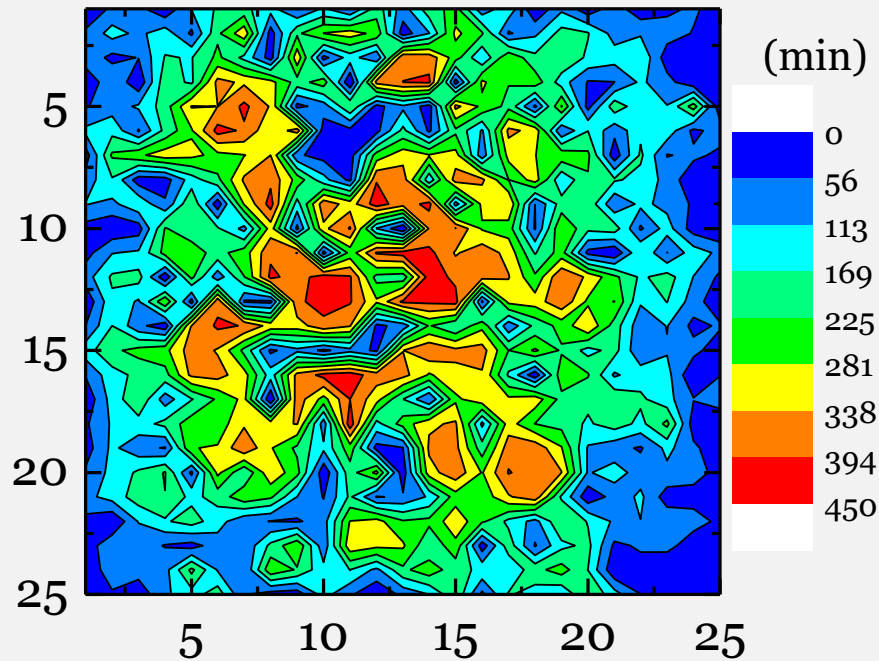
→

1 mm

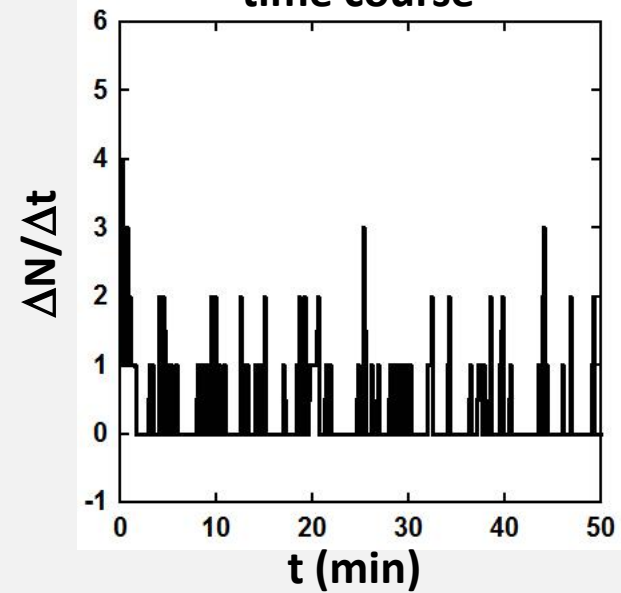
- Spatially isolated cavitation events

Synthetic trees – segmented xylem

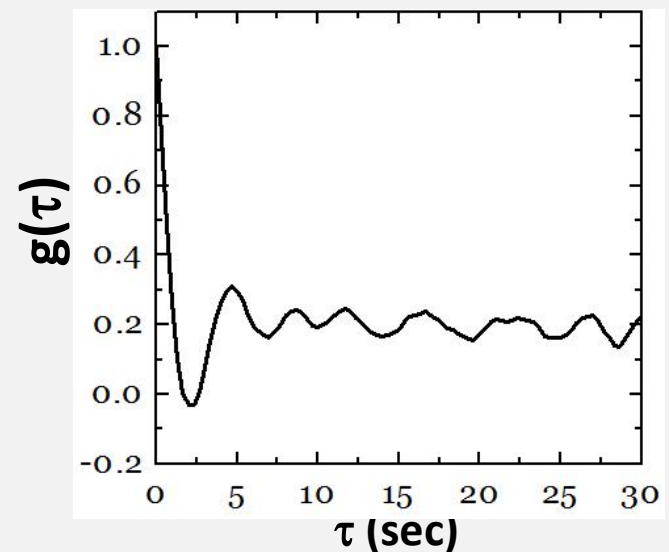
time to cavitation



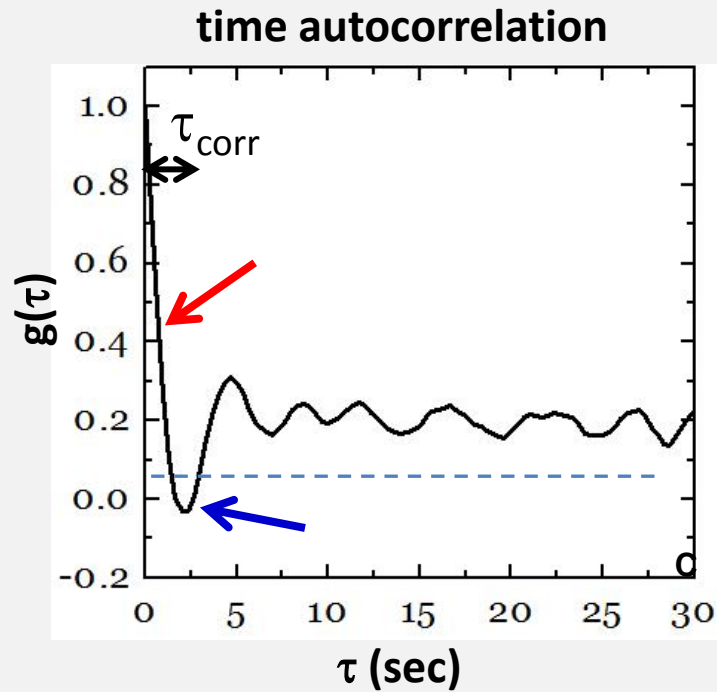
time course



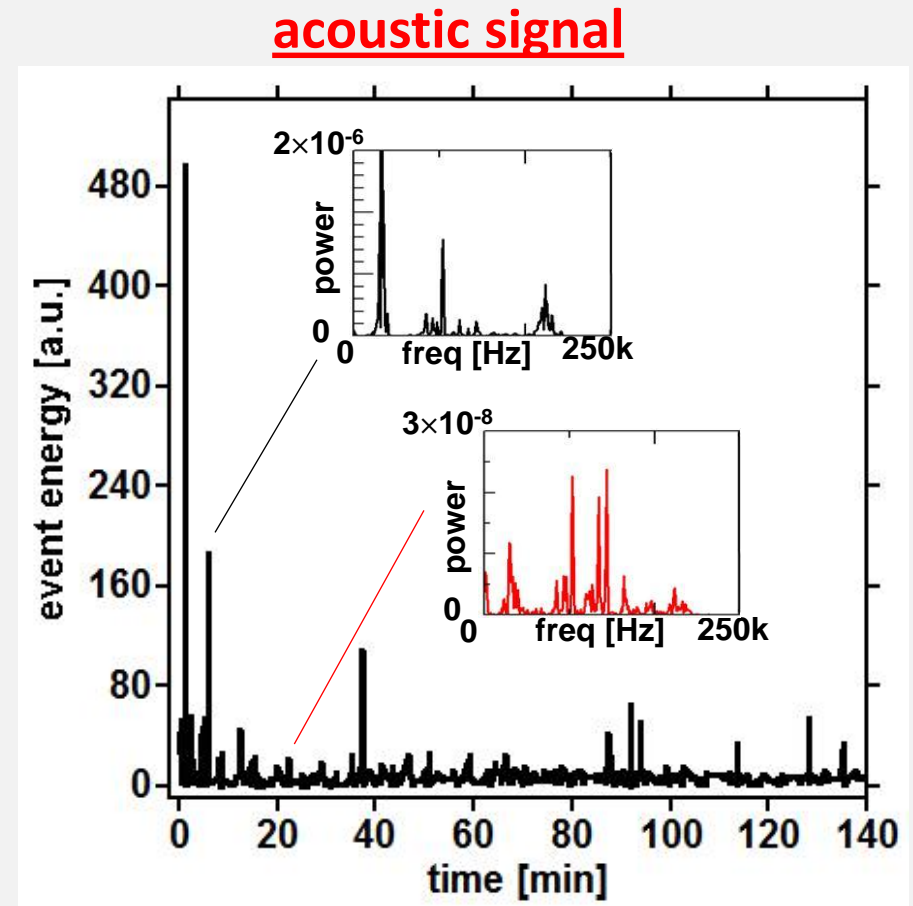
time autocorrelation



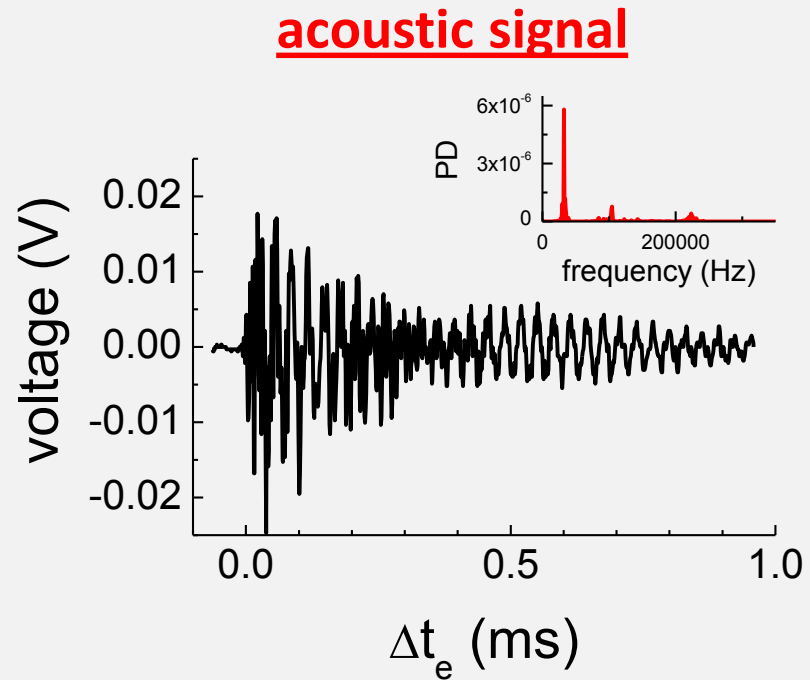
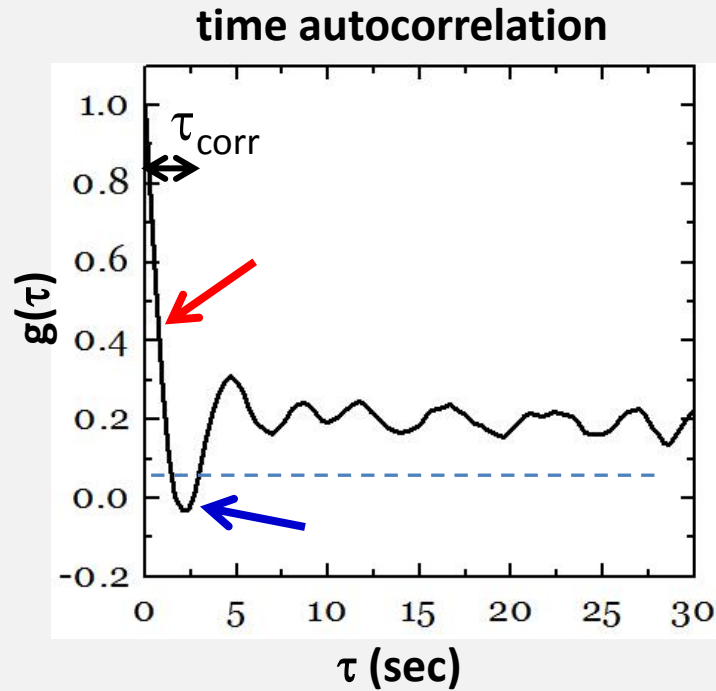
Synthetic trees – segmented xylem



- acoustic triggering?
- hydraulic suppression?



Synthetic trees – segmented xylem

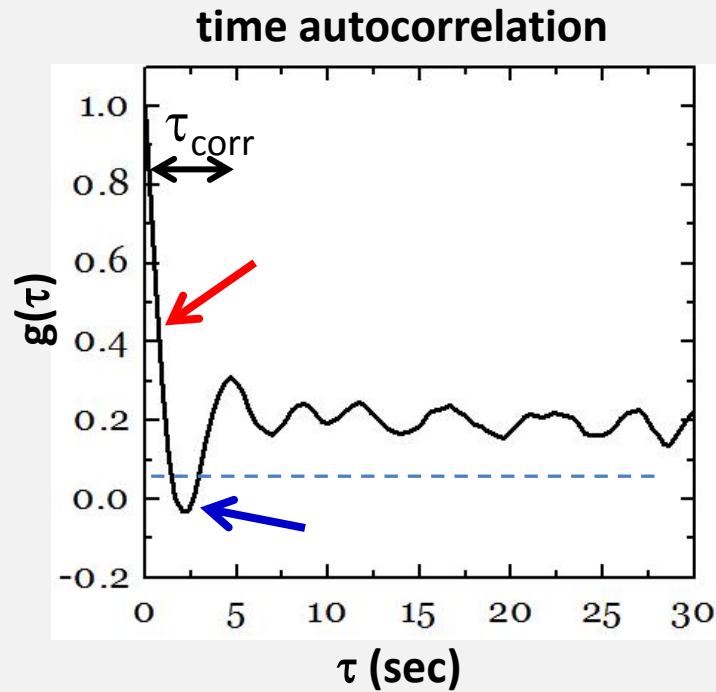


- ~~acoustic triggering?~~
- hydraulic suppression?

- Acoustic signals, but not triggering additional events.
- But, acoustic signatures = opportunity for autonomic response.

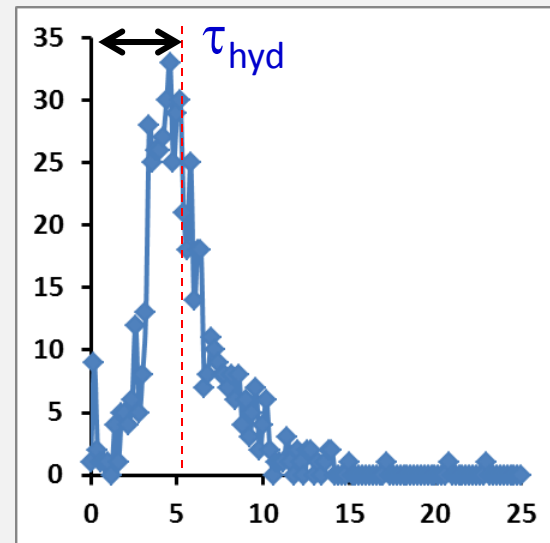
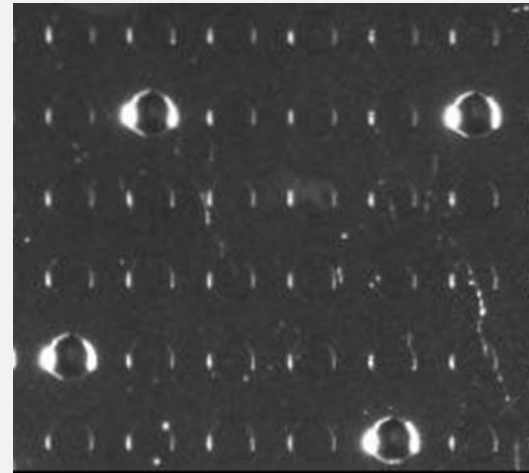
$$\tau_{\text{acoust}} = 1 \text{ ms} \ll \tau_{\text{corr}}$$

Synthetic tree – segmented xylem



- ~~acoustic triggering?~~
- hydraulic suppression?

hydraulic suppression

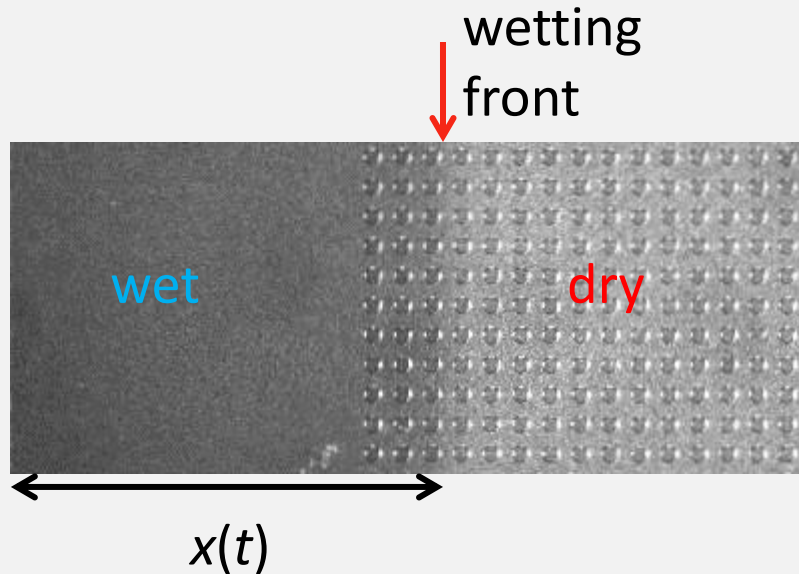


$$\tau_{\text{hyd}} = 5.3 \text{ min} \cong \tau_{\text{corr}}$$

- Drying proceeds in “avalanches” with suppression by re-saturation.

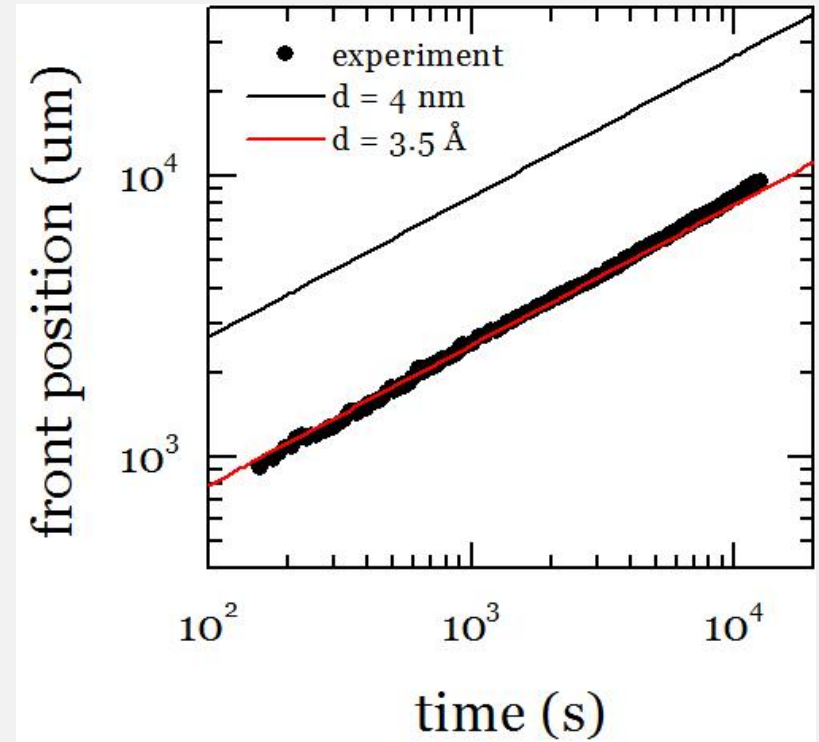
Synthetic tree – segmented xylem

Physiology of “border pit membrane”?



Washburn eqn. for capillary wetting:

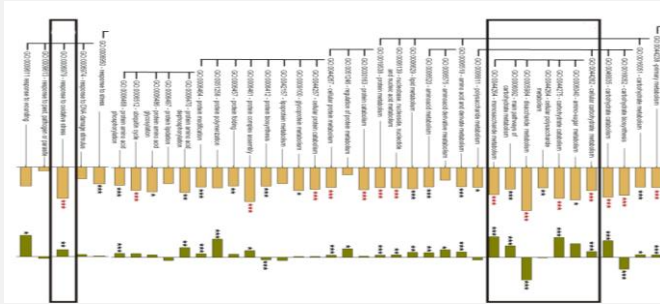
$$x(t) = \sqrt{\frac{\gamma d_{pore} t}{4\eta}}$$



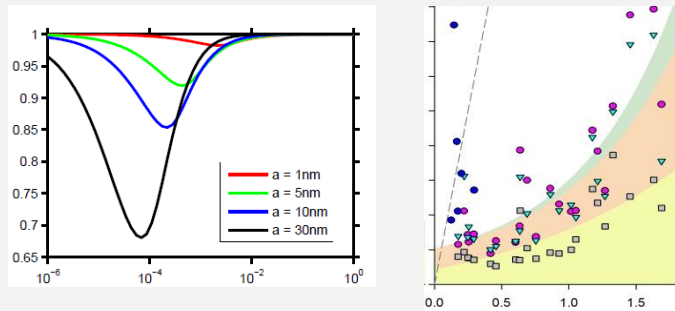
- $d_{pore} = 0.35$ nm
- consistent with τ_{hyd}

Conclusions

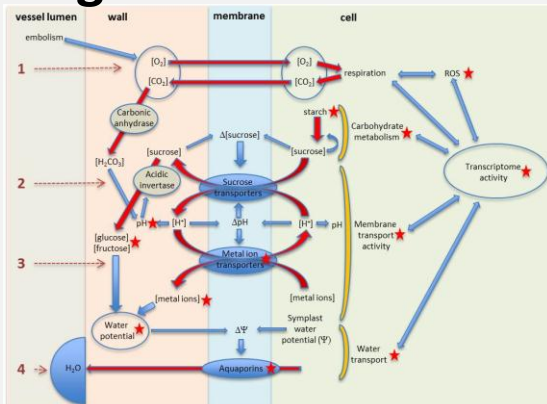
biomolecular insights



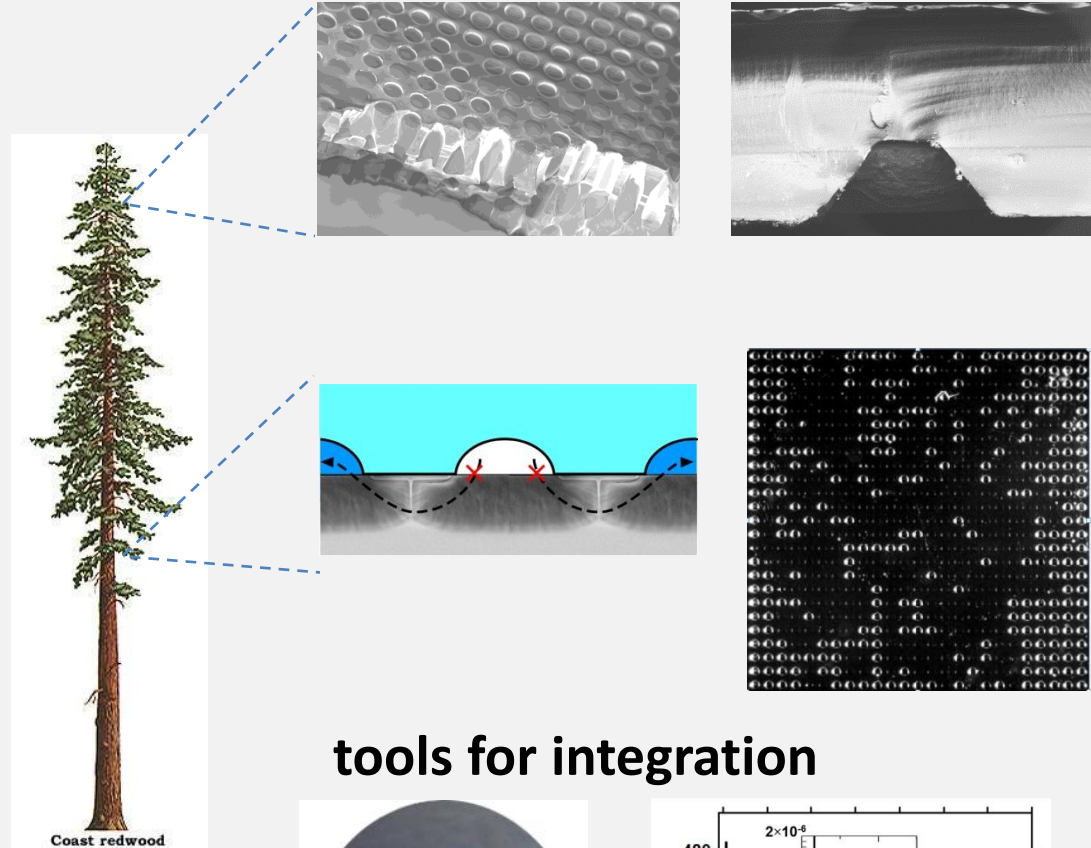
biophysical insights



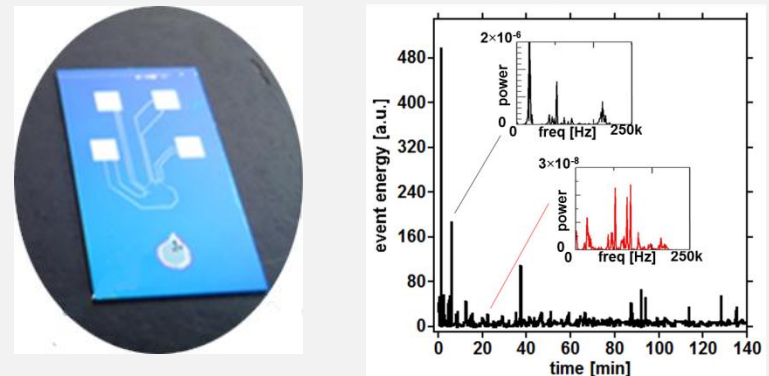
integrated understanding



synthetic physiology



tools for integration



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